

生好きに  
ぎぎに  
たいと思  
います

The world is full of monsters now,  
therefor I want to live as I wish.  
Author よっしゃあつ!  
Illustrator こるせ

モンスター  
世界にな  
ったがあ  
ふれる



The World Is Overflowing with Monster, I'm Taking a Liking to This Life  
Monster ga Afureru Sekai ni Natta node, Suki ni Ikitai to Omoimasu • 怪物が溢る世界になっただけで、好きになれたらいいかな  
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On his way home from his office, the main protagonist drove and ran over a big dog. At that moment, he heard the sudden sound of a voice inside his head. <<The monster has been subjugated, gaining experience points.>>  
[Eh?] Before anyone knew, the world has changed. Monsters appear, this is a game-like world where levels, skills, and status exist. This is an adventure where the modern world becomes fantasy and where the main protagonist has to strive hard for his survival.

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Chapter 1

Source: Antheor

Report

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We made another announcement regarding our Christmas gifts here :

Merry Christmas everyone! Here it's 0 o'clock in the morning of the 25!

There's no better time after a beautiful Christmas eve to share with you one of our two gifts for the day.

Joeemm associates with me to present a new novel to you all! We're coming with no less than 15 chapters :).

The novel has a long name 怪物が溢る世界になっただけで、好きになれたらいいかな: The world is overflowing with monsters, I'm taking a liking to this life, therefore, I will selfishly shorten it as World with monsters (WWM).

You can read the Synopsys on the dedicated page.

You need to know that the novel is R15 because there is some Depiction of cruelty. This novel is also fairly recent, but already popular enough to be serialized as a novel. It's not the author's first one as he already made popular novels such as this one.

If you see this announcement without knowing about our group, know that we have a Discord and you can join any time to enjoy some great moments with us.

If you appreciate the translation, you may share a small donation here or on the sidebar.

~~Advertising~~

Access the chapters by clicking the links below :

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Chapter 2

Source: Antheor

Report

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Wake up. Oh, I slept well. I don't want to work. I'm lazy. Well, it's permissible even if I am because today is a holiday.

□But, to get up at that time, it truly struck me that I'm a corporate slave.....

□

Toilet... Pee. Dragging my body, I got out of the futon. Washed away in the toilet, I feel refreshed.

How should I put it? Outside is getting noisy. Alarms and warnings, I can hear such sounds..... ? What are you doing in the morning? Well, whatever.

□I am hungry..... □

After all, since I went to bed as soon as I came home yesterday I haven't eaten anything. Yes, breakfast and a second service of sleep.

□Etto, oh, I don't have any rice cooked. Well, I'm going for bread then..... □

With egg and bacon, I'll make bacon egg toast. Yosh, Jiburi meal

1)<https://ouchi-gohan.jp/384/>. I want to eat a full one.

□..... Hm? Are?□

Weird. The electricity in the fridge is gone.

□Uwah, the milk is lukewarm..... □

The milk inside the refrigerator is lukewarm. Although I wanted to drink it cold, I will have to drink it soon now, so let's do it this way. The ice was melted and when I open the freezer, what was supposed to be ice flooded.

What's going on? Perhaps I thought of something. The string of the light got pulled and the incandescent light should turn on. Nothing.

□..... Acha, maybe the breaker fell?□

Was there a thunderstorm yesterday? No, I think the weather was good.

It can't be helped, I reach the entranceway and raise the breaker. Nothing.

What's going on?

□C'mon, you mean there's an electricity outage?□

You think the whole neighborhood has a power outage? The siren which is ringing since a while ago would be the result? It's inevitable. Do your best Eastern electricity. 2)□○□□ The Gas..... Yes, it's working.

□Well, it'll be alright for a while. Other than that. Meal, the meal. □

Disposing the frying pan, I turn on the fire. The margarine melt, bacon and eggs are added.

□Because I can't use the oven, should I fry the bread with the frying pan?□

When bacons and eggs are done, I spread another round of margarine before I add the bread in. One side is cooked until it becomes a little brownish. Sort of Panini. This could surprisingly work. When I add the bacon and egg from earlier it's completed. For a bit of additional taste, sprinkle some salt and pepper to your liking. Easy food for a single man. Good smell. It looks really delicious.

□I'm showing my gratitude for this meal. □

The bread is crispy, the bacon is crispy and the softly cooked egg is thick. It's delicious. If milk was cold to go with this, it's impossible to complain. I'm putting on the television as I drink the lukewarm milk. Nothing. Oh, I see, there is the power outage. Well then, let's check the news on the smartphone——.

□..... Oh, I forgot to charge it. □

The smartphone is also out of charge. Are you serious? What a day!

□Hm? Wait a minute. If you don't have electricity, that means you can't use internet!□

All the novels in my bookmarks are waiting..... Haa..... No way. Time to sleep now. Shortly, I am to finish my breakfast in a swift and return to my futon. For the time being, let's pour water on the dishes. I'll wash them properly later. .... I have to remember later.

□Then, good night. □

So, I started my second service of sleep. Today, since earlier, it's really noisy outside..... Wh-what.....

Well, let's go sleeping. Guh.....

.....

.....

Woke up. I slept well..... I check the time after dragging myself out of the futon.

□Uwa, it's already noon. □

My second service, I slept 6 hours. The light leaks from a gap in the curtain it is completely daytime.

□Dazzling..... □

The light of the sun is poison to a corporate slave. The negative energy inside my body (Mainly because of the boss) is purified. It's useless. Don't cleanse it. This energy, I will store it so that one day I can send payback to my boss. SFX: Shaa. I open the curtain.

□..... Hm?□



I'm puzzled. My room is a shabby apartment at the fourth floor. From there, even if only a little bit, you can see through a part of the city.

□What's with this sight?□

The first thing that jumped into my eyes is a mysterious big tree. The huge tree should have dozens of meters in height. This tree looks straight out from a fantasy world. He grew and broke all over through concrete and houses.

Furthermore, the part where the ground is paved and the part where it is exposed overlap like a patchwork. It seems to be forced with different colors, just like a jigsaw puzzle.

Smokes rise here and there. Sirens are ringing incessantly. The sound of claxon coming from cars is heard all the time. Screams mixed with roars that you can't think of them coming from human.

□Angyaaaa□□Or □GIGAAAA□, they're giving different feelings. Yes, like a monster..... No, impossible. That's the conclusion——□

□O-orc. □

A pig head with a corpulent body. This monster is a classic in fantasy. Orcs are walking on the road. No, from morning to noon. It's a pretty good day.

□And, no, no, no!□

That's laughable! Really laughable! Orc? Why Orc!?

Once again, I take a look at the pig-like creature. It's real. .... There's no way it looks like an artifice..... There is no zipper on the back. It's too much for a costume. In his hand is a huge kitchen knife and it is definitely moving towards a person's head... Ah, if you look closely it's full of blood.

□.....□

And that orc have something inside of his other hand..... It's dripping blood, round..... Is it a ball of bowling or something. I'm certain. In here you can see the parts that give the feeling of being eyes, mouths but it's certainly different. It's a mistake I'm certain. It's a nice boat.

□Uppu..... Oeeee. □

Vomited. Yeah, impossible. What's that? Gross. Really gross. It is certainly beyond the level of something gross.

There are others monsters than orcs such as zombies wandering around. It's slightly early for an Halloween isn't it? Besides, it's May the fifth.

□Oh my gosh..... □

That's situation is too unrealistic, my understanding is far behind. But, maybe it's like this. The world has changed. To a new world where monsters appear and attack people. I don't understand how or why, but it appears to be so.

□It's not a dream right..... ?□

Pinch my cheek. It hurts. I thought that this development was something akin to an otaku's delusion. No, I have already read this kind of novell on the internet. But I would have never thought it would actually happen. My head isn't following.

□Fuuu..... □

On the table stands the milk pack I left earlier. I wanted to put something in my mouth anyway.

□Ngu, ngu ..... Puwaa. □

There I drank everything. My brain begin to work a little.

□..... Which means that what happened yesterday wasn't a mistake?□

After calming a little, I recalled the events of yesterday. The big dog totally out of common sense which had been killed when I was on the way home.

Maybe it was a monster?

In this case, since at least yesterday the world has changed.

□Well then, after what I heard "that voice"?□

The voice that resounded in my head after that dog disappeared.

Remember. What did the voice say at that time?

□If I remember correctly..... It confirmed the first subjugation, I gained a skill. □

Suddenly, I come up with a possibility. The world where monsters appear.

And the mysterious announcement. With "That" should be there as well. In such a case, it's a promise.

□——Status Open. □

What the hell.

Kudou Kazuto Level 1 Hp : 5/5 Mp : 5/5 Strength : 3 Endurance : 2 Agility : 1 Dexterity : 1 Magic : 0 Magic resistance : 0 SP : 10 JP : 10

Job : none

Unique skill : Precocious.

Skill : none..

..... It really went out.

~~Advertising~~

References [ + ]

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Chapter 3

Source: Antheor

Report

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Kudou Kazuto Level 1 Hp : 5/5 Mp : 5/5 Strength : 3 Endurance : 2 Agility : 1 Dexterity : 1 Magic : 0 Magic resistance : 0 SP : 10 JP : 10

Job : none

Unique skill : Precocious.

Skill : none..

□.....□

I look at the status displayed in front of me. Somehow, I feel like coming out from a game or an anime. In front of me is floating a transparent rectangular board with characters written on it. Are you serious.

Let's check them one by one. First is my name. Kudou Kazuto. It's not written with the Kanjis but it's written in katakana.

is the level. Below are the status. One digit across the board. There's no way to say because I have no target for comparison, but it's probably really low right Below status are SP and JP. When I thought about what would happen when I stretched my finger to the displayed characters, nothing happened. Are they just for show?

Under them are some information such as the job, the inherent skills and skills. The fields next to the job and skill are blank.

The unique skill field display one, "Precocious" When I click on it, of course, nothing happens. But somehow, when I try to understand the meaning behind the word, does it mean that I can grow up early? Or is it going to make some experience correction?

But, why is that I acquired it?

Ah..... Remember.

Desperately, I'm recalling my memory.

——First suppression in Chaos Frontier confirmed. First Subjugation bonus will be given.

If I am not mistaken, this is what it said.

..... The first subjugation.

It means that I received it because I defeated the very first monster. That dog..... It was said that I defeated or killed it... but it was more a coincidence.

"..... This, is it really an item drop?"

Playing with the purple jewel in my hand. It becomes a feeling I don't really understand.

Now, what to do with job and skills.

While thinking it's still useless, I click on the job field for the time being.

<<——Please choose your job. >>

"UO!?"

I heard that voice again. Then, the characters on the status screen change. An entry appeared under the job.

<<You can choose one of the following jobs. >>

Citizen, Adventurer, Clerk, Negotiator, shut-in1)Anth: I'm so dead at this job, NEET, trainee monk, cook, rider, spy.

They are my choices?

I'm viewing the items. Etto..... Shut-in and NEET jobs?

No, when you look at Citizen and the rest, they are classes rather than jobs.

Is that it? Is it because I always wanted to quit my job and stay at home?

What is a trainee monk? Was it because of the company? Well, in a way it isn't that different from training. I sharpened it until I removed the limit of my spirit.

Cook..... Well, it's probably because I cooked for myself or I cooked a fancy dish. On the occasional days off.

Rider..... Are what? Is it because I got a car license? But it should be

"Driver" instead, no? Is that because I killed a monster? I don't understand the standard.

And the spy. This is probably because I was often forced to snitch informations about my colleague by the boss. What a downhearted verdict. I think this is a bad role for me. But this is what you call necessary evil for a person. It's with the preparedness to be grudged that I was doing that role. It was quite disagreeable at the office.

Now, I have to choose from one of these..... It seems. What shall I do? It seems there is only one choice available.

As another candidate is Adventurer. It's the safest and I feel like it suits this world.

I mean, this is real right? It's not a dream right?

□Hum..... □

Yosh, it's decided. Let's choose the job.

«——Selecting the job□Spy□. Requires 1JP. Are you sure?»

Apparently, JP seems to stand for job points. You can consume this and choose a job? Yes yes, it's really like a game. JP stands for Job Points whereas SP stands for Skill Points.

This is what I decided, Spy. This is such a world. The important thing is to collect information and protection. For that, I thought this is the best choice. Still, I was perplexed between choosing Spy and Adventurer. This is my character.

What? Why didn't I chose shut-in? Who would should such a job? If you are inside a MMORPG and you are making a net character to play with, this doesn't mean you have to chose that job, it's fantasy don't put it the same as reality. Maybe I'll die.

Because there is no Yes or No button, I reply in my mind. Is this ok?

«The job has become spy. Skill□Stealthy steps□acquired.

Skill□Observation□acquired. Skill□Improved hearing□acquired. Skill□Covert action□acquired.

Oh, I heard something.

Kudou Kazuto Level 1 Hp : 5/5 Mp : 5/5 Strength : 3 Endurance : 2 Agility : 1-3 Dexterity : 1 - 3 Magic : 0 Magic resistance : 0 SP : 10 JP : 9

Job : Spy Lvl 1

Unique skill : Precocious.

Skills: Stealthy steps LV1, Observation LV1, Improved hearing LV1, Covert action LV1.

Oh, agility and dexterity raised to 3. And I received four skills. This is just what I wished for. This was the correct answer to choose the spy job after all.

JP decreased to 9. Since the job is LV1. Maybe I can use JP to increase the level more?

Yosh, we're getting started. Let's try more and more.

Advertising

References [ + ]

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Chapter 4  
Source: Antheor  
Report

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So let's raise the level of our job. Current job is [Spy] at Lv1. Considering that I have used one point when I learned it, there's the possibility of using JP (Job Points) again..... I hope. I'm praying in my heart.

<<Do you want to increase the LV of spy by consuming 2JP?>>

Oh, there is a reaction. Spending 2 points it'll go up to LV2. In a sense, it is as I expected. Of course, I chose yes.

<<Jp are consumed. Spy rose to LV2. >>

I did it.

Kudou Kazuto Level 1 Hp : 5/5 Mp : 5/5 Strength : 3 Endurance : 2 Agility: 3  
→ 5 Dexterity: 3 → 5 Magic : 0 Magic resistance : 0 SP : 10 JP: 9 → 7

Job. Spy Lv2.

Unique skill : Precocious.

Skills: Stealthy steps LV1, Observation LV1, Improved hearing LV1, Covert action LV1.

Jps decreased by 2. Also, when the level of a job increase, a correction of the status happens? There might as well be items to apply some status correction, but should I say, would I ever be able to have such luxury?

Hm?Wait? If you get more than one job, your status will rise accordingly?

The so-called second job and third job. When I tried to click on Adventurer, inside the job field.

<<Since your LV hasn't reached a certain point, you won't be able to choose a second job. >>

Well, it seems that I can't choose a second job. But the fact is. Since my level has not reached a certain amount, if you look at it the other way, when it increase I will be able to choose more jobs. Yes, it's really like a game. I am looking forward to it. What level do you need to choose a second job?

Well, I can think about it later. If I can't select multiple jobs for now, there's one thing I can do. I pray to god in my heart again.

<<Do you want to increase the LV of spy by consuming 3JP?>>

There's a reaction again. After all, it's 3 points for the LV3. That means you need the same amount of points as the amount your level will reach. LV 4 is 4 points. LV 5 is 5 points and so on. In this case. Let's reach the level of Spy as much as possible.

<<Jp are consumed. Spy rose to Lv3 . >>

<<The job reached a sufficient level. >> <<Stealthy steps rose to LV2>>

<<Observation rose to LV2>> <<Improved hearing rose to LV2>> <<Covert action rose to LV2>>

..... Hm? Did the level of skills go up at the same occasion? When the level of the job rises, the skills attached rise with it. This is something good to

know. You probably need SP to improve your skills. However, if I can raise the level with jobs, I can reduce their consumption.

But I don't know how much they will rise. Should I try? For now, should I raise the job's level once again?

<<Jp are consumed. Spy rose to Lv4 . >>

Thus, my status became like this.

Kudou Kazuto Level 1 Hp : 5/5 Mp : 5/5 Strength : 3 Endurance : 2 Agility: 5  
→ 9 Dexterity: 5 → 9 Magic : 0 Magic resistance : 0 SP : 10 JP: 0

Job. Spy Lv4.

Unique skill : Precocious.

Skills: Stealthy steps LV2, Observation LV2, Improved hearing LV2, Covert action LV2.

Compared to the beginning, I wonder if it is a little better. Yosh, let's try out the SP (Skill Points) not that we are in this condition.

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Chapter 5

Source: Antheor

Report

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So the next step is to improve the level of my skills. All four of them were acquired. [Stealthy steps], [Observation], [Improved hearing], [Covert action]. Thanks to raising my jobs, my skills went up to LV2.

Well, I wonder which one I should raise..... Don't get lost.....

Oh, since you can click on the job's field, maybe you can also click on the skills field? Feeling a bit excited, I clicked on the skill field.

<<Multiple skills are available.Do you want to obtain them?>>

Wow! Seriously!? A list of skills from which characters are darkened to tell them apart from the previously acquired is displayed on the status plate.

They number 20 in total.

[Initially available skill list.]

Body strengthening, Swordsmanship, Riding, Stress resistance, Poison resistance, Fear resistance, Paralysis resistance, Virus resistance, Heat resistance, Tamper tolerance, Negotiation skill, HP automatic recovery, Hostility perception, Crisis perception, Concealment, Cooking, Documents handling, Packing, Load carrying, Writing, Item box.

[There's a cupful]. Are they the skills that I can master separately from the skills I gained with my profession? Is it because of my life at the company that there is so many skills with resistance? Futile.

The effect of the skills probably have a certain value. This is semblable to a novel. Often I found myself thinking about this. Choosing skills makes me excited.

Now, my current amount of SP is 10 Points. How can I use them? Whether to acquire a new skill or raise the LV of the current ones..... Although it is troublesome, considering that I have to survive in this sword, there are skills to choose. After I check on each skill by clicking on them, they all needed 1 point for learning. This is a blessing. Whichever you choose, it's only one point. In other words, if you don't take in consideration the level of skill, you can obtain up to ten skills.

□Humm, I wonder what to raise□□

After struggling a lot, I decided to take the following skills.

□Body strengthening□ □Stress resistance□ □Fear resistance□ □Hostility perception□ □Crisis perception□ □Item box□

That's it.

Since the outside is overflowing with monsters, □Hostility perception□and□Crisis perception□ are necessary. In addition of □Covert action□, my chances of survival become way higher. In fact, the moment I received these two skills, I felt that my intuition became sharper.

□Mumu, this presence?□It feels like a person. My tension rises.

□Fuh, the person here... Why don't you come out from your hideout?□I always wanted to try. That's cool isn't it? I wanted to say this by all means! Of course, if it is a monster, I will run away immediately afterwards. (Not sure of the block above)

, in case I were to battle, I also acquired the skill □Body strengthening□ It's not surprising since my raw specs are low. After obtaining the skill Body strengthening, I immediately took a look at my status. HP, Strength, Endurance, Agility and Dexterity all increased by an amount of 5 points. Incredible! My stats value now is way bigger than the original.

With a bit of added tension, I raise the skill□Body strengthening□ to Lv 2. The added value changed from +5 to +10 Let's try later to see actually by how much my power has increased.

When fighting against an opponent, fear is the biggest cause of injury that's why I have chosen□Stress resistance□and □Fear resistance□. Far from exchanging my life, I have never been in a fight. The two resistances will be essential to keep the balance in my mind. As soon as I got it, the fear I had regarding the monsters outside is diminished. Besides, what can I say about the unspeakable anxiety I have since earlier? It's gone. Great Skill.

And finally, the □Item box□. Simply because I thought it is an useful skill.

When I selected the skill, I tried it immediately. This is really amazing. The ballpoint pen that I had in my hands had disappeared inside in an instant.

After I prayed with my heart again, the pen reappeared before my eyes.

Perhaps it's stored somewhere in a different space, like in a game. It's packed with a sense of fantasy.

No, I feel that the world has gone wrong. This is dangerous. As a web novel reader, my heart is already going Kyun Kyun. Well, this is going to be a dangerous world where life will stand alongside death. Then, we only have to think positively.

I have 2 SP remainings. I'll keep them for now. Were there something to happen, I can use them to strengthen my skills or get new skills depending on the situation. Here's my status now.

Kudou Kazuto Level 1 HP 15/15 Mp : 5/5 Strength : 3 → 13 Endurance: 2 → 12 Agility: 9 → 19 Dexterity: 9 → 19 Magic : 0 Magic resistance : 0 SP: 2 JP: 0

Job. Spy Lv4.

Unique skill : Precocious

Skills: Stealthy steps LV2, Observation LV2, Improved hearing LV2, Covert action LV2. Body strengthening LV2, Stress resistance LV1, Fear resistance LV1, Hostility perception LV1, Crisis perception LV1, Item box LV1,

Well, let's examine the acquired skills next.

Advertising

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Chapter 6

Source: Antheor

Report

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Now, let's verify the skills I acquired. Even if it's what I said, I can only try [Body strengthening] and [Item box]

Then, I wonder how much my body's ability went up. Strength is "13". The original number was "3". It's four times. It's quicker than I expected.

[Ah, speaking of which.....]

I head to the kitchen. There is the refrigerator before me. This is too heavy.

[Yoshiyo.....]

Grasping the refrigerator, I slowly try to lift it.

[Oh..... It doesn't feel heavy at all.]

I was able to lift it up easily. Kuu, if I had this skill when I moved, I could carry a lot more easily. The refrigerator is big but it's enough to be passed through the door to the corridor outside. Oh, but the refrigerator casters.

That's amazing. No it's not! It's been dripping water! It's cold! I hurried away from the refrigerator. Ah, I'm all soaked.

Let's change. After which I move to the heaviest machine in my household, the washing machine. This is also not light..... But I managed to move it.

Great..... Up to now it was a weight for two people.

I jumped lightly. My hand reached the ceiling easily. Are you serious. This time, the jump has a little more strength. SFX : Bang. It became a suicide jump. It hurts. There's a hole now.

I take out a spoon and tried to grasp it with the palm of my hand. SFX: Splat Uooo..... An esper would be surprised at this power..... Even if I can't say that I'm one.

[Yes, it truly feels like my physical capabilities increased overall. This is amazing.]

Fuahahaha, I'm overflowing with power. What is it?

Then, since I confirmed the performance of my body, let's examine the [Item box] next. [Item box] is the ability to store things that you hold or touch just as I tried earlier. This is a staple of fantasy, exactly. With [Appraisal], you can say they are the two major lines from fantasy. Due to the presence of these two, the cheat condition in different worlds is quite variable.

At any rate, there is even the novel idea where harems are built solely based on these skills alone. They are promised victorious skin. Probably. So, let's try and see how much we can store at LV1. For the time being, I decided to store everything I pass by.

As a result, almost all of the furniture that I own can be stored such as change of clothes, underwear, gloves, heavy clothing, ero doujinshi, Konnyaku(Used), table, washing machine, dock good; in my Item box. Eve, at LV1, the size seems to be considerable. Super convenient. God-like. Dangerous, I'm enjoying it too much. Although it is quite an emergency situation, this fantasy feeling is unbelievable.

[Oh, I wish I had made a list of what I stored inside.....]

I put so many things inside and now I can't remember everything that I put inside. Now I realize it is a natural thing.

<<Do you wish to display a list of the stored items?>>

When I was thinking, the voice sounded in my head. What? There's a list? When I say yes, a plate of the same kind as the status screen emerges in front of me.

[Oh, it's displaying the items in the order I added them.....]

The list show the items from top to bottom according to the order they were stored. Moreover, it has a vertical scroll function. It seems that whenever there's more than one item, it is displayed with x Number.

For example, if we talk about a pet bottle, here is how it is displayed. Water 500ml x3 bottle. Tea 2L x1 bottle.

And so on. It's neatly classified by types. Super powerful. God-like.

[There's no need to worry about forgetting what you put inside in this case.]

Wow, that's too amazing, the Item box. This different world is already showing good promises.

By the way, I thought about how the preservation would work inside so I boiled hot water and tried to store it. After a little while I retrieve it from the box. It's getting lukewarm as normal.

Humm, there is no function like insulation to stop the heat or something? No, my Item Box is only LV1 so maybe if the level increase the functionalities will improve. Anyway, this is a great skill.

That's not all. When you use the skill to store and retrieve an item, not only it is useful, but if you think for it to appear in your hand, the item truly does. In addition, the things that are too big for your hands are released in front of you.

Besides, it seems that if an item is recognized as mine, I can store it even from a little distance away. It's subtle though to see in your area what is and what isn't considered as your [Possession], but I will have the time to find this later. The effective range from which I can store things is about 1 meter. If the skill level increase, the range will probably expand further. Then, I'm almost done with the verification of skills. What should I do now? For the time being, should I eat and nap? No no, what do you mean I'm pushing reality away?

Even now the cries from the monsters and the screams from someone can be heard from outside. The skill [Improved hearing] makes me hear them even more clearly than before. It's scary.

Okay, so what now? Should I head out or should I siege here?

[But even if I want to siege here, my food.....]

There's some proper ingredient left in the fridge. There's some slice of bread and eggs, several fruits and vegetables, Natto1)Japanese fermented soy beans, Seasoned meat and Japanese pickled vegetables. After that I have a few cups of ramen, some scarce dried food, a pinch of sake and a few snacks. The supply of water is still up but there's nothing I can do if it's cut.

[Oh, right. Let's put water in empty bottles for the time being.]

There are dozens of PET Bottles that I thought about throwing altogether on the next garbage day. They are still usable if I rinse them. Added water, I store them inside the Item box. For the moment, I have secured the minimum amount of drinkable water. In my storage, I managed to add twelve PET bottles with a size of 2 Liters.

[Should I store the seasoning and the frying pan as well?Don't forget about right.]

Even if there's no electronic cooking utensils, it would be good if I can use an earthenware pot to cook some. That's why. let's store rice too.

[And also, should I put some tableware together?]

Hence I managed to store all the tableware that were stored in the closet.

2)Anth: He probably forgot the ones inside the sink lol Even if it's LV1, I can store so much. 3)Anth: I can imagine him throwing everything on the road

because he needs to store something xDWhat a good surprise for 1 point.

Now, everyone will be able to have the same convenient Item box!

[Hum, I guess I should head out, yeah.....]

This is a good place but once an orc or something reach the inside, there's no leeway for escape. More than that, the food is too scarce. At most I have enough for a few days. Meanwhile, if there are monsters in the

neighborhood, it's checkmate for me. Above all, it hurts so much that

there's no electricity. 4)Anth: I understand you Kazuto. Look, imagine you can't read your favorite novels anymore? Hurghh, the past 4 years of my life gone in a bling There's no way to gather intelligence from staying within the house.

Even if it looks somehow risky, it will be better to go outside, join someone, and gather information. In the worst case, I can still escape immediately.



The efficiency of my acquired skills is real. Besides, compared to monster, I have earth's geographical advantage. If I devote myself to flee, there's no way I'd die even when facing the worst.

□The thing is, I also need a weapon..... □

That's how it is. In this place there's no such thing as even as a standard bat or a crowbar.

□..... Is there no other way?□

What I have in my hand is the knife I'm using in the kitchen to cook meals.

This is the only thing I could think of as a weapon from my place. Well, no matter how you look at it. This is one of the classic weapon in suspense5)I

think he talks about film genre. It's killing ability is excellent. This is a weapon that has buried many adulterers, but it is also an excellent weapon for killing. That's why, the weapon I am holding isn't just a kitchen knife.

□Hum, but if I wander outside with a knife, I'll look completely like a suspicious person... □

I don't know what to say. The door was opened, and I have the kitchen knife in my hand.

Yosh, let's go to the outside world.

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References [ + ]

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Chapter 7

Source: Antheor

Report

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Standing before the entrance door. From here on, it is not the same everyday that I spent until now. The unknown world in which monsters overrun spreads out.

□.....H!□

This ordinary door fell awfully heavy. Fuh, I'm apparently nervous — Oh, it is just normally rusted. SFX:Gachari. Opened.

Got out. To my destiny. It's okay. □Awareness 1)Here instead of Crisis perception that MC chosen before, it's □□□□, which I believe isn't the same skill but W/e□and□Hostility perception□in addition of□Covert action□work. Right now there are no monsters in the vicinity..... That's how it should be. I mean, these three skills. When I stayed in the room, I didn't understand their effects so well. It's the first time for them to function since I am outside. There is still a little anxiety.

First, check the left and the right. It's the corridor of my familiar old apartment. Here and there cracks are on the concrete, fluorescent lights are installed and spider webs are in the eaves. It's okay. There is no monster. At least, on "this floor".

□Fuuu..... □

The kitchen knife which I grasped isn't very reliable. Although it resembles nothing like a real weapon, with this I appear as a completely suspicious soldier. Inhale and exhale, then keep moving while using the handrail wall to hide. This way, no one can see my figure from the outside.

Now, confirm the next door. There's a newlywed couple who lives inside. I don't know much more details about them. I don't communicate with my base neighbors.

Simply because the wall is thin, the voices of a nightlife often leaked out.

The next day, I don't feel to say anything after I see the glossy wife.

Beautiful woman with big breasts that seem to be so shy, she raises her voice until it reaches a disturbing level at night. On those days, there is a lot of consumption of the Konnyaku..... No, now isn't the time to become sad in many ways.

SFX:Knock Knock Knock the small door. .... No reaction.

Turn the doorknob. .... Nothing. Are they out? Or did they run away?

Maybe any of these happened while I was asleep for the second time? It's possible. Come to think of it, the world has been like this for more than half a day. It's no wonder that everyone is taking action. I was asleep, though! Maybe they had checked my safety while I was asleep. And since I showed no reaction, they ran away as it was. Yeah, could be plenty enough. Or rather, while the world is supposed to be like this, I am the one in the wrong for sleeping 6 hours twice. No way, I was tired. It's not bad. The whole society is bad.

Let's try to check the other rooms for the time being. In turn, knock, open the doorknob. Everyplace is absent. There is one of the room open, but the inside shows that things were pulled out messily. Perhaps in panic he ran away. This feeling on the fourth floor, the lower ones will be the same, no? I'll check them once.

Go down the stairs. When walking in the crossing passageway I was scared, but the awful sound I thought would come out didn't. Perhaps this is the effect of the skill □Stealthy steps□. Even when I'm moving quickly, I don't make any sound. Convenient. Here, won't I be able to moonwalk perfectly? What?

Come to think of it, what kind of feeling am I looking from others right now? I'm in a very inconspicuous state, right? Hum, I'm frustrated but I can't confirm this myself.

I arrived at the third floor. There is no one in the corridor. Knocking each rooms near the staircase. No reaction.

There was no reaction in the next room and the one after that. And the last room at the corner.

Knock on. No reaction. Turn the doorknob. Opened.

□Oh□

The door opens with a loud noise.

□..... Is anyone here?□

I'm watching for a reaction with the smallest voice possible. .... No reaction. In anyone there? I'm slowly peeking in.

□..... Hmm?□

Someone..... Is there. Awareness is feeling it.

But..... What? What with this□Bad feeling□echoing in my head?

Is this..... □Hostility□?

Therefore, I return myself to reality.

At the next moment.

□Gigiiiiiiiiiiiiii□!□

Someone comes from the back of the room, popping up!

□Wow!!□

I rebound with my knife instinctively. SFX:Kiiin! There was a sound. The sound of cutlery colliding with cutlery.

The person who attacked me comes into my sight. It wasn't a person.

The stature of a child from elementary grade school, with green skin.

Wearing only a dirty loincloth and a small knife in her hand. This is a classic monster in fantasy worlds.

□Goblin..... Is it?□

..... No, it may be the case that there is an official name. But, it looks completely like a goblin. So I decided for it to be named goblin.

The goblin slowly gazes at me. Its body is much smaller than mine. The arms look underweight and its overall floomy. The feeling of intimidation is frightening. It's not some fake creature that appears on screen like in game or animation. The only feeling here is: it's real.

I understand, that's scary..... Owing to□Fear resistance□, I'm a lot more relaxed but if I didn't have the skill, I might shit myself. My legs would shake and there's no way I would be able to escape.

□Gigi..... □

The goblin takes a little distance and gazes at me. Are you cautious because I prevented your first attack?

□Fuh, there..... Isn't this a sudden feeling of fantasy?□

I prepare the kitchen knife too. And also, a fearless smile.

□Gii..... !□

The Goblin holds his dagger, ready to go at me any time! Its expression is just showing that. Kukuku, its fired up.

If you feel like that —— I'm running!

I suddenly turned around with a curl and ran away from the place. Goodbye, Goblin!

□Giiih!?□

From behind, you can understand the goblin is saying □Ehh!? Wait. □

Then, the Goblin rushed after me and went out of the entrance in the hall. Yosh.

At that moment, I turn around again and stand right in front of the Goblin. With my mystery action again, the Goblin becomes startled for a mere moment. It's my chance.

□— Item box□Open. □

While holding the kitchen knife, I use the □Item box□ Take out the □Washing machine. □□ The wastefully heavy washing machine is taken out. When something I take out from the Item box is too big, it appears straight in front of me. And the Goblin is right in front of me. What is going to happen?

□Gugyah!□

The Goblin was crushed by the sudden appearing washing machine. Because this washing machine is extremely huge, the entrance and the corridor are almost the same width. Because the machine also have some depth, the monster can't have the time to retreat.

□Strategy successful. □

Yes, smashing it gave me a good feeling. Although it isn't dead.

□Gii..... Giiii..... !□

Just under the washing machine, it is pinned down. Enough that it seems to be stuck.

□Storage□

The washing machine is stored again inside the Item box.

□Gi?Gii..... ?□

The object suppressing the Goblin suddenly disappeared, making it display a surprised expression. My smile turns in laughter.

□One more time. □

Take out the washing machine again before the Goblin gets ready. Aim at the position of the head as much as possible — SFX:Dosun.

□Gugiya□

Of course, the Goblin was crushed again.

□Well, you're still alive..... ?□

The Goblin twitches. I prepared a higher position than before. Was it a little too short? Then, again, put the washing machine in the Storage and take it out. SFX:Dosun.

□Gu..... Giya..... □

Repeat the work. Storage, Take out, Dosun. Storage, Take out, Dosun.

Storage, Take out, Dosun. Storage, Take out, Dosun. Storage, Take out,

Dosun. Storage, Take out, Dosun.

How many times did it repeat? An unpleasant sound echoes. The Goblin is completely motionless. He seems to have died. At that moment, the Goblin's corpse disappear and a blue pebble rolls in the hallway.

<<Earning experience points>> <<The experience has reached a sufficient level. >> <<Kudou Kazuto rose from level 1 to level 2. >>

This voice echoes in my head. Apparently, it seems that my LV have gone up somehow.

□Fuuu..... □

With a big sigh, I sit down on the spot. Oh, I was scared. No, I'm glad that I managed to win.

Sweat is rushing out from my back. I was scared. But, that's right. I killed a monster by myself for the first time, and I now know I can do it.

The most impressive Item box. Oh, I'll use a knife. I'm using a knife.

Advertising

References [ + ]

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Chapter 8

Source: Antheor

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□Status Open□

There's no need to say it. I'm just in the mood. Status when you're tired.

Status at any time. Fight-oh!

Kudou Kazuto Level 2 HP : 15/15 →+ 18/18 Mp : 1/1 → 2/2 Strength : 13 →

15 Endurance : 12 → 13 Agility : 19 → 22 Dexterity : 19 → 22 Magic : 0

Magic resistance : 0 SP : 2 → 22 JP : 0 → 10

Job. Spy Lv4.

Unique skill : Precocious

Skills: Stealthy steps LV2, Observation LV2, Improved hearing LV2, Covert action LV2. Body strengthening LV2, Stress tolerance LV1, Fear resistance LV1, Hostility perception LV1, Crisis perception LV1, Item box LV1,

Overall, the numbers went up. There's a benefit to raise my level. The influence of my job on agility and dexterity makes them grow a little more.

So, with one level up, 20 SP and 10JP? Splending, I take that.

What to do? Right now, this place is dangerous. □Hostility perception□show no reaction. But since this Goblin is dead, maybe other will perceive it and come together. Let's move first. Store the washing machine and pick up the fallen blue pebble.

□Still, when the monster die the corpse disappear and it'll drop a pebble. □

The first dog gave a purple pebble. This Goblin gave a blue pebble. The pebble from the goblin is smaller for some reason.

□Storage□

The pebble is inserted inside the Item box for the time being. Then, let's move on.

I came back to my room. It's okay. There are no monsters here. I'll probably be fine, because I've made sure there are no monsters behind me or hiding somewhere along the passageway.

□But I was so scared. □

One Goblin. How scary would I be the day I encounter an Orc strolling along the road?

The previous battle. Honestly, after crushing it with the washing machine, it was good to stab one of the protruded part with my knife. Well, it's very hard to stab. Yes. Stabbing a creature is more pressuring than you think.

You may want to think otherwise after the world becomes like this but it's true. It's very brave of you to stab a Goblin. I was nervous at that time and

my flabbergastedness was laughable. It was seriously hard and scary. Well, I mostly just beat it to death, tough. But that's it.

The next time, I don't know if it's going to work. Now I have to decide and get [Ready].

[Even if the usefulness of the Item box is so good.....]

There's no arguing in its physical power. But if I want to take something out, it's only forward. The destructive power is amazing when done so.

I take out the washing machine from earlier.

[Ue..... There's Goblin's blood sticking on the bottom.....]

Blood from the Goblins appear to be blue. Disgusting.

[Are? That said, the body of the Goblin has disappeared. Then why is the blood on the washing machine remains?]

If the monster dies, its body disappear and a pebble remains. Maybe this is a mistake. However, the gore which is part of the body remains without disappearing. What kind of mechanism is it?

[Well, maybe it can't be helped.]

It's more realistic.

[Let's put our status on hold first and head downstairs.]

After that it's the first floor. to a nearby convenience store. Maybe it's already been ruined, but I want to look for some food. Then maybe I could meet with other people.

But let's first fix our status for the time being. First, I got 10 JP. Let's spend them on spy.

<<Do you want to increase the LV of spy by consuming 5 JP?>>

Yes, of course.

<<Jp are consumed. Spy rose to Lv5. >>

<<LV is now high enough. >> <<Skill[Hostility perception LV1]Acquired. >>

<<Because the skill is duplicated, it will be integrated to the existing[Hostility perception LV1]>> <<Hostility perception LV1 merged and rose to LV2>>

Are? In addition, I also acquired Hostility perception? It is possible to gain new skills when the level of a job raises? So, if it is an existing skill, they are unified.

Eeh..... Say it first! There was no answer of course to the question I thrust in my heart.

are the SP. The remaining points are 22. How should I allocate them.....

I remember the surprise attack from the Goblin earlier. Despite having [Covert action] I was still noticed by the monster. Even though[Hostility perception]was activated, I could only respond at the last minute.

Judging from this, the skills aren't almighty. And depending on the level, you should think that there is a difference in effect.

[It's probably because despite of[Covert action], I talked a little.....]

I knocked too. If you undertake actions that can be understood by your opponent, the skill[Covert action]will get less effective immediately. But, what if the LV rise?



«Do you want to increase the LV of Covert action by consuming 3SP?»  
Yes. Consuming SP in the same way, I raised the level of □Covert action□to level 4. Now, I still have 15 SP. Then□Body strengthening□to 3 and□Crisis perception□to 3. After that I also take the level of Item box to 3. Because the Item Box is so convenient. It's already one in my family, the Item box.  
□Status Open□  
Kudou Kazuto Level 2 HP : 18/18 MP : 2/2 Strength : 15 → 20 Endurance: 12 → 18 Agility : 22 → 30 Dexterity : 22 → 30 Magic : 0 Magic resistance : 0 SP: 2 JP : 5

Job. Spy Lv5.

Unique skill : Precocious

Skills: Stealthy steps LV2, Observation LV2, Improved hearing LV2, Covert action LV4 Body strengthening LV3, Stress tolerance LV1, Fear resistance LV1, Hostility perception LV2, Crisis perception LV3, Item box LV3.

This is good. No, I don't know if it's good or not. But it has improved considerably compared to the beginning. Well, let's go out again.

Ah, that's right. As I explore, if there is something I can get to eat, then let's throw it inside my Item box. What? Theft? It's not a crime, is it? Such world of the end-of-century, what now.

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Chapter 9

Source: Antheor

Report

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So, with the kitchen knife at hand, I'm going out again.

□Yosh, do your best, me. □

Firing my spirit up, I'm heading for the exit. SFX : Gacha Gacha! Kuh, the door is still dull! Scrap Apartment!

I descend to the second floor. Since□Covert action□is now LV4 it's good. My existence feels thinner than earlier. Alongside□Stealthy steps□ I totally feel like I'm a ninja. No, with one knife at hand, if anything I'm just a thief?

□Hm..... ?□

Several doors are left open. □Hostility perception□and□Crisis perception□show a reaction. One Goblin appear from one of the door. Yosh, it's your turn, washing machine.

..... No, wait a minute.

The Goblin wasn't one. Two..... Three, Four..... Oioi, four in total? Oii.

While hiding behind the wall, I look at the state of the Goblins.

□Gigi. □ □Gii, gigii. □ □Gigihgii. □

The Goblins are discussing something. Or rather, Goblins are amazing. They just came to such a world and they are already tempering themselves, they are already acclimated. Would you only recognize your hunting land has

changed, if you are a Goblin? That I can't tell, because I don't know how smart they are.

One Goblin point towards the top. The others nod.

Maybe the Goblin who was upstairs is one of those guys friend? Was he on the upper floors for reconnaissance? Is it suspicious because he isn't coming back... ?

Or, were they listening to the sounds of their friend getting crushed by the washing machine? Yes, the noise was so loud. Well, that makes it suspicious. Stupid me! Damn! There was no helping it! In my first battle, I hit with my wits out!

— Dan-dangerous. One of the Goblins come towards me.

What to do? Fight or flee?

No, wait. This is a chance. The chance to get a large amount of experience at once.

Most importantly, those goblins are bare handed unlike the guy from earlier. My status is higher than before, both weapons and terrain are at my advantage here. .... Let's do it.

There's still the option of running away too. Similar to this place, people who ran away surely encountered a similar situation. Is it possible to keep escaping all the time? The answer is no. In order to □Get used to the world. □you should first defeat the Goblins here and raise your level.

□.....□

The Goblin is reaching near me. Okay, it isn't noticing.

More..... Little more..... Right now! The moment when the Goblin turns around in the hallway, I cover its mouth and stab the kitchen knife in its heart.

□—Gih!?□

The Goblin has probably been careless. I could strike the chest easily. Whoosh, stabbed to death. The Goblin falls on the spot. The blue pebble rolled on the spot, it died in one blow.

«Earning experience points» «Skill proficiency has reached a sufficient level. » «The skill Stress tolerance rose from LV1 to LV2. »

Voices echoed in my head. At the same time, the unpleasant feeling of discomfort and guilt that I had felt since before have diminished.

□Gii!?□ □Gigi!□ □Gii, Giii!□

Other Goblins notice my existence. The three Goblins threatened me intensely and come running towards this place. Yosh, predictable.

Calm down. Look carefully. Make use of Observation. The door of the room behind me — Yosh, it's closed. The other doors are the same. It'll be fine. I also ran to the "front" all of a sudden.

□Item box open. □

Took out the □Refrigerator□. With casters, among the household appliances I have, it is the heaviest alongside the washing machine plus it's big. With my improved status thanks to Body I push forward with all my strength!

□□□Giiiiiii!?□□□

The voices from the Goblins are astonished. The sudden huge object that appeared before their eyes is pressing to them at a tremendous speed. The Goblins are thrown into the wall with no resistance. SFX:Don! And a dull sound echoes.

□Fuuu... □

Store the refrigerator again. All the Goblins are stunned. The strike should have been strong enough. Some Goblins have bent legs or arms in strange direction. It's good. Went well. Household appliances are amazing. High technology is handy.

□Now, put an end to..... □

The thing is that the pebbles aren't rolling and that the Goblins aren't dead yet. I stick out the kitchen knife in my hand and strike at the Goblin's chest. Yes, don't think about it. Take it like it's work. Whoosh, stabbed to death easily.

The Goblins were dying very easily. I pick up the blue pebbles.

«Earning experience points» «The experience has reached a sufficient level. » «Kudou Kazuto rose from level 2 to level 3. »

«Earning experience points» «The experience has reached a sufficient level. » «Kudou Kazuto rose from level 3 to level 4. »

The level went up. Two in one gulp. Rising level like this. Surely, it's the doing of the □Precocious□. The skill must give a correction to the amount of experience I earn.

□Fuuu..... □

I'm tired. However, feeling stressed considerably made the LV of □Stress tolerance□rise.

So from now on, I can probably do better. I understood it at the first surprise attack. If you go around properly, you can kill an opponent the level of a Goblin easily from the right position.

□Checking the status..... Should I do it now?□

Let's finish it quickly. After I make sure that the monsters aren't around, I enter the room where the Goblins rested before. Status Open.

Kudou Kazuto Level 4 HP : 18/18 → 22/22 MP: 2/2 → 4/4 Strength : 20 → 23

Endurance : 18 → 21 Agility : 30 → 35 Dexterity : 30 → 34 Magic : 0 Magic

resistance : 0 SP : 2 → 42 JP : 5 → 25

Job. Spy Lv5.

Unique skill : Precocious

Skills: Stealthy steps LV2, Observation LV2, Improved hearing LV2, Covert action LV4 Body strengthening LV3, Stress tolerance LV2, Fear resistance LV1, Hostility perception LV2, Crisis perception LV3, Item box LV3.

Since the level has gone up by two so did my JP and SP. After all, every time my LV goes up by 1, it will without a doubt give 20 SP and 10 JP.

Now I have 25JP. Yosh, let's get up to LV 8 all at once.

Spy rose to LV 8 in a stretch. The level of □Stealthy steps□, □Observation□, □Improved hearing□, □Covert action□also have risen by one. Apparently,

every time the level of a job goes 3 up, the level of the skill acquired from it will rise as well. That's good right.

is the allocation of SP. 42 points. Yosh, it's decided. Raise Body strengthening and Item box to 6. In addition of "Hostility perception" to 3 and "Crisis perception" to 4. Let's acquire the new skills "Swordsmanship" and "Concealment". They were 1 point each. Speaking of the knife, it's an edged tool. The skill "Swordsmanship" should come in handy. "Concealment" is a skill I was planning to get from the beginning, so this time I took it. Let's preserve the remaining 3 points.

Kudou Kazuto Level 4 HP : 22/22 MP : 4/4 Strength : 23 → 38 Endurance : 21 → 36 Agility : 35 → 59 Dexterity : 34 → 58 Magic : 0 Magic resistance : 0 SP : 3 JP : 4

Job. Spy LV8.

Unique skill : Precocious

Skills: Stealthy steps LV3, Observation LV3, Improved hearing LV3, Covert action LV3. Body strengthening LV6, Swordsmanship LV1, Stress tolerance LV2, Fear resistance LV2, Hostility perception LV3, Crisis perception LV4, Concealment LV1, Item box LV6.

Yes, the increase in agility and dexterity is remarkable. My body feels really invigorated.

But no matter how much stronger I got, it's wrong to challenge naively from the front. After all, it's surprise or nothing. Let's have my fights centered around that technique. Even when looking at my personality, I feel that it's the best fit. There is also my two strong allies called washing machine and refrigerator.

, let's check the performance of the Item box. The LV went up, there must be some extra..... Hm? This feeling..... Somehow, the usages comes to my mind.

Ooh, two things came out at the same time! In my hands, an apple and a ballpoint pen appear at the same time. Apple pen. 1) This is a reference to the popular Apple Pen little music.

Apparently, thanks to the increase in its level, It has become possible to put more than one thing out at the same time. Up to four at the same time.

Really convenient. God-like. In this case, the breadth of my tactics will expand considerably.

After that, I tried it a lot and the extension of the Item box looks something like this.

1 Storage volume increased. 2 Different things can be put in and out at the same time. (Up to 4) 3 The range of the storage where I can put things in and out has spread. (Up to 5 meters)

Oh, and it would be the best if it could stop the time of the thing which I store in after this. Well, there's no choice but to say it's a luxury. It might be possible if the LV goes up further.

Well, should I get off to the first floor? Taking the opportunity, I borrow useful things from this room. No problem. I'll return them properly after I see the owner. If he is alive.

Advertising

References [ + ]

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Chapter 10

Source: Antheor

Report

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That reminds me, I just looks like a thief who takes advantage of the crisis. It is doubtful how much I can store inside the item box.

Suitable furniture and food are thrown inside my Item box but it's working fine. They also appear neatly inside the list of stored items.

In other words, is this something that can store the belongings from other people? Or can I store it because□They are recognized as my own kind of thing□? Or, that usual announcement ———Temporarily called Heavenly voice, is judging whether they are mine or not?

I think it's either my perception or the Heavenly voice doing. Maybe the latter. My own perception is quite iffy.

For example, I can store the water in a plastic bottle. I could store the plastic bottle with the water, but I couldn't take out□Only□the water from there. This is probably because I□Recognize□that the plastic bottle and the water are one.

How far on earth does my□Recognition□and the Heavenly voice are communicating? Well, I have no choice but to try this a little.

□Oops..... □

While I was thinking I reached the bottom of the stairs. Normally I would suffer quite a bit when walking the stairs, for at least 1 minute. All the rooms on the first floor are completely ruined. Maybe those Goblins did it. But even though the rooms were destroyed, there is no evidence of conflict or bloodstains. The residents might have been evacuated after all. Leaving me at the place. Well, I'm not lonely. I was just sleeping!

□Oh, right. My car. □

Is it safe for me? I head to the parking lot.

Tattered..... It is a tragic appearance. You monster, I still have a loan..... !

It's impossible to ride this. But it's a waste to throw it away. Could it get into my Item box?The level went up.

Give it a try. The car is gone. Oh, it went in. Even something this huge could fit in. Really, what an Item box. Seriously, cheat.

Kukukuku, If I see a monster. I'll crush it with the tattered car until I flatten it.

After checking the list, it was added to the bottom as [Scrapped car x1 unit]. Scrapped..... Sniff.

[..... Hm?]

When I was yielding such a feeling, I felt something from behind with Awareness. But [Hostility perception]nor[Crisis perception]showed any reaction. This, it's not a monster? Is it a person?

I'm slowly looking at the back. It was a dog there.

[You..... Maybe, you're Momo?]

[Wan!]

The dog called Momo responds cheerfully.

[Wow, Momo! You were safe!]

[Wan!]

I ran up quickly and caught up with Momo. Momo licks my cheeks.

Momo is a stray dog who is always in this neighborhood. It is a female Shiba Inu and when the neighborhood discovered it, they often fed it. I knew that you shouldn't feed a stray dogs irresponsibly, but in these apartments it is forbidden to have a pet. It was not possible to bring it and it was difficult to find even at a pet center that someone else owned it.

Momo was the one healing me, aside from web novels, who was exhausted from the daily life of the company. It is not an exaggeration to say that both web novels and Momo are the support to my spirit. Thanks to my tremendous case, Momo who completely stayed in the field always remembered.

[I'm so glad, you're alive Momo ]

[Kuuun]

Sorry, Momo. To be honest, I was obsessed with monsters and skills, so I had completely forgotten about you. I think that I'm a scum. I mean, the world became like this and I thought that it would absolutely die so I tried not to remember as much as possible. I'm really sorry, Momo. Forgive me.

[Kuuun]

Momo licks my cheeks with the feeling that it doesn't care. So lovely, I'm healed.

[Oh, right. Momo, you're hungry, have a meal. ]

Take out the dog food and a plate from my Item box and give them to Momo. Momo started to eat greedily whether it was hungry. While watching that figure, I'm healed.

Oh, don't neglect your vigilance of the surroundings okay? For the moment, there was no sign of a monster from Awareness.

After a while, Momo's meal was finished. It licks its mouth with satisfaction.

[Hm?]

Momo is starting at me. What? You didn't have enough with that? You want to eat a little more? Before I tried to take out the dog food again from the Item box.

<<Momo looks at you in hope to become your nakama. Do you want to become nakamas?>>



□Ha..... ?□

Didn't I just hear a strange announcement flow right now? Specifically, I feel that it was a famous line in a certain game.....

«Momo looks at you in hope to become your nakama. Do you want to become nakamas?»

□Wan!□

I'm not mistaken!

Momo is staring at me with sparkly eyes.

Eh, is there such a system in this world!?

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Chapter 11

Source: Antheor

Report

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Etto, what I'm supposed to do? For now, let's just pray with my heart, I say yes within my head.

«Application has been accepted. Momo joined your party»

Apparently, it seems that Momo became my nakama. Yes. Somewhat, there are too many questions remaining but the general idea is settled.

When looking at the status screen, the number of items increased at the bottom. Named□Party Member□. The name of Momo was written there.

Momo Shiba Inu LV2

It seems that the name and the level will be displayed when you build a party. Shiba Inu heh..... No, maybe it's the □Species□? There's various possibilities of dog breeds, but in a game-like setting, □Species□ might be better.

If they were humans, what would be displayed? The jobs?Well, I don't understand that for now since I have yet to meet other people.

I mean, wait a moment please. LV2..... is it?

□..... Say, Momo. Did you possibly defeat one of the monsters?□

□Wan!□

Momo answers cheerfully. Do you mean yes? Eh, uso 1)Uso means lie, seriously?

Momo is swinging its tail, what happened? It's tilting the head. How cute.

Such a kawaii dog-chan, there is no way for it to beat a monster right?

Yeah, I'm sure it's a mistake. Ah, that's right. Is there a method to check it.

□Hey, Momo. Have you seen this kind of stone?□

Then I take out the blue pebble from my Item box. It's a drop item which is evidence that one has defeated a Goblin.

Or rather, what do you use it for?

By the way, when I put this in my storage, the name turned out clearly. In the list of from the Item box □Goblin's Magic Stone(Minimal)□ Magic

stone.... It's a staple from another world. It's usually possible to take it at the Adventurer Guild where you can convert it for materials to make a stronger weapon. But in reality, there is no Guild. There is only black companies that ignore the standards Laws for work.

Hm? The moment when I take the Goblin's magic stone(Minimal), Momo shakes its tail.

□Wanwan!□

Give me! Give it to me! That's what it seemed to say. What? You want it?

□Wafuh!□

It seems to desire it. I mean, do you understand what I'm saying?

When I move my hand holding the magic stone to the right, Momo's gaze follows to the right. When moving to the left, Momo's gaze to the left.

Turning around, Momo's face also turns around.

□Wafun..... □

Oh, she's getting dizzy..... Kawaii. Sorry sorry.

For now, I put the magic stone in front of Momo's eyes. Soon after Momo sniffed the smells, she look at me and the pebble alternately. I nodded.

But what about this? At that moment, Momo ate the pebble in her mouth with a crunch. What, did you eat it!?

□Wait, Momo! You shouldn't it that, it's no food! Put it down. Hey. □

But it was too late. SFX: Gorigori, Gokkun. Momo satisfied are the magic stone.

E,eehh.....

Momo stares at me with sparkling eyes. Is there no more?I want to eat more. It seems to say that.

□..... Wafun?□

What to do? I can't do that?

Ugu..... Guoooo. Stop it, stop gazing at me like this. Reminds me of a certain CM's Chihuahua. What are you doing, me? After all, I lost to the look of Item box and took out another Goblin's magic stone from the Item box.

Momo was very happy to eat it.

□Seriously..... Is this something you can eat?□

I try it in my mouth. Hard. It's just a stone. Bitter at that. Disgusting.

Simply, I just can't it eat. Why is it edible for Momo?

Well, it's fine. It's pleased. Eventually, I gave all the pebbles from the Goblins to Momo.

□Ah, that reminds me. □

I look at the list of items inside the Item box. Because I stored a considerable amount, I struggled for a moment just to look for it.

□There..... □

The first big dog that I killed. The purple pebble dropped by the dog. The name was neatly described.

□Shadow wolf's magic stone (Small) x1 Unit. □

Apparently, that big dog seemed to be called a Shadow Wolf. Literally translates to a Kage Ookami. What a cool name, damn it.

Anyway, this storage list is convenient. The name of the things in the [Storage] are accurately described. This may prove a variety of applications.

Take out the Shadow Wolf's magic stone in front of Momo. Then, Momo waved its tail in a way it never did and made a dazzled expression. It looks very happy. Can I? Can I eat this? And her gaze comes to my appeal. Kawaii. When I told it yes, the pebble is vigorously eating.

Even so, why does my chest tighten up like this when the dog waits before the food? It goes Kyun Kyun. Just me? No, if you like dogs you will understand. I'm looking at Momo who is leisurely eating.

[Hm?]

After Momo ate the Shadow Wolf's magic stone, its body went Pikun. Then, as if to confirm something, she's whirling around it body.

[What's wrong, Momo?]

Perhaps it was something you shouldn't have eaten after all? When I looked anxiously at Momo, she pops in my shadow and rubs against my body.

[Wan!]

It's right, you don't have to worry, thank you. Is what it seemed to say. Somehow, the voice attached from before seemed to have a certain hunch to it. Kawaii. I'm going Mofumofu2) Fluffy for a while. The troubles in my heart are healed.

[Now, Momo. I'm going to the convenience store in my neighborhood. Will you come with me?]

[Wan!]

Momo responded vigorously. Well, really. Considering my skills, job and the dangers of the monsters, it would be better for me to act alone by myself.... Thinking about Momo's safety. But..... Somehow I felt it is better to take Momo with me. Someone said that human beings are moved for a thought, feeling or a reason. At such a time, it is better to follow your intuition. And after a couple of minutes --- I'm convinced that this intuition was the correct one.

Momo is far more awesome than I expected.

Advertising

References [ + ]

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Chapter 12

Source: Antheor

Report

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Taking Momo with me, I'm going to the nearby convenience store. The road which wasn't like this until yesterday is tattered. At least there are no monsters in the surroundings, but a different thing stood out.

Corpses. Goblin or Orc? Dead bodies that had been attacked, hurt and torn were scattered here and there.

□Uwah..... So disgusting..... □

Without□Stress tolerance□I'd have definitely vomited. The appearance is terrible, yeah, but the smell is even more terrible than that. Fishy smell of meat and blood. My nose is going crazy. Flies are gathered, attracted by the putrid smell. The corpse of a woman was particularly terrible. Probably raped right before she died.

□Uu..... □

Momo also seems to be considerably overwhelmed. The olfaction of dogs is much better than humans, it should be much harder than for me.

□Momo, are you okay? After all, you can wait at the back if you want?□

When I say so, Momo shakes its head and rubs her body on me. It's fine, it says to me to not worry.

□Well, let's go ahead. □

□Wan. □

Walking again. It probably came half a distance from the convenience store. Because I'm moving while holding my breath so it takes quite a while. There was a response from Hostility perception. At the corner ahead I feel the presence of a monster with Awareness.

□Momo, stop. □

With my voice, Momo stops moving. Slowly, I walk close to the wall to look at what's behind there.

□..... Whoa, a zombie?□

It is a zombie. Like in the pandemic movie, the familiar zombies are roaming the town. It's not the resident of the town that became zombies. The clothes worn are tattered, and part of the exposed skin is rotten. Even if you are bitten and become a zombie, you won't become like that in just two days. In other words, they might be monsters.

What will happen if I am bitten? Am I going to be a zombie? Or rather, are physical attacks effective on them? If it comes to a movie or something, the head would be the weak point, but.....

I'm staring at the zombies with Observation. Their movement is dull.

Perhaps if I drop the washing machine over their head, they will definitely get crushed. However, unlike the time with the Goblin, if you're using a washing machine here it'll surely stand out. It's best to only crush the head quietly.

I have to go through here, it will be too long to make a detour. Fortunately, there are no other monsters. Let's crush it.

□Can I use this..... □

I took out □Dumbbell (Weight 10Kg)□ It's not my belonging, but one from another residents of the same apartment. As a blunt weapon, it has an unprecedented killing ability. With my current status, I can hold it easily. I'm approaching without being noticed trying to one-hit the zombie.

The moment the zombie had turned his back on us, I rush at once. It's okay. Thanks to "Covert action" and "Stealthy steps" my actions hasn't been realized. With my fast approach, I attempt to brandish the iron dumbbell. At that moment, the zombie suddenly turns to my direction.

"A aaaa... ?"

Perhaps it was a coincidence. It just changed direction. But at that moment, I am surprised and my body becomes stiff. Dangerous——, he'll beat me, or so I thought.

But surprisingly, the zombie stopped his movement. As if it is bound by something.

"Eh..... ?"

In fact, it's like that. "Something black" tied around the zombie's body impeding his movement. Since "Observation" had risen, I was able to , even in this situation, recognize that shape.

It's a shadow. My shadow is unnaturally stretched and is holding the body of the zombie. What do you mean? I don't have this skill. So who?

"Wan!"

Momo's voice. Noway—— you? There is no confirmation. But I thought it was the shiba's doing somehow.

Momo runs and approaches me. And, as the distance between Momo and me decreases, the shadow's power constraining the zombie gets stronger. The zombie is completely blocked from moving and even the mouth isn't able to move.

—— If it's like that, now! I'm brandishing the iron dumbbell again!

SFX:Gong, a dull sound resounds. The zombie fell on the spot.

<<Earning experience points>>

The announcement sounded in my head. It seems that the head was a weakness after all. The corpse of a zombie—— No, because he's dead from the beginning, it's strange to say corpse, but the corpse of the zombie disappears.

Then a small red magic stone rolls. The magic stone of the zombies are red? Quickly, I collect it inside my Item box. When I check, "Zombie's magic stone (Minimal) x1 Unit" is displayed. Take it out again, I show the stone to Momo.

"Here, Momo. You want to eat this?"

"Wan!"

Momo ate the magic stone which I gave to her happily. After Momo has finished eating, I ask.

"Hey, Momo. Did you possibly help me just now?"

"Wan!"

Momo nods while shaking its fluttery tail. Kawaii. But, how could it be that?

"Shadow manipulation Skill" I'm not aware of the name, but probably Momo has the skill to do so.

This is most likely because of the magic stone I gave earlier. Shadow Wolf's Magic stone. Shadow (Kage) how the name imply, that dog should be able

to use this skill. Did you eat the magic stone and obtain the skill residing within Momo? How I wonder? Such a feeling in the air brings the consideration for a line. Then let's ask.

□Momo, the reason why you could use the previous skill is because I gave you Magic stones?□

□Wan. □

When I say so, its body rubbing against me. Praise me. Because I did my best, praise me. Of course, I'll praise. Stroking. Kawaii.

Humm, if you eat the magic stones, do you acquire the skills? But I can't eat them. Is it just Momo? Besides that, are other animals..... Or maybe monsters too? But if this hypothesis is correct, monsters will also have

□Skills□ and □Levels□.

□Momo, what you did earlier, can you make it again?□

□Wan!□

When I ask Momo, the shape of my shadow move and change as before. It's a movement that clearly ignores any law of physic and common sense.

When I checked various things, the shadows Momo can manipulate is just its own or mine. The effective range is about ten meters. The closer the distance, the stronger the power of the shadow. It's not able to move in three dimensions, but it can only move as it crawl over to an object.

And then, the□Shadow□'s restraint will be broken against a stronger individual. Using myself as a test subject, if I use all my strength, I can resist the shadow's restraint. This isn't to the extent of being almighty. But it's pretty usable.

□Shadow manipulation□skill. This is very compatible with my □Covert action□. Approaching with□Covert action□,□Shadow□can stop the movement and I can crush them with my home appliances. That's a wonderful combo.

After that, I and Momo make a simple arrangement and we restart our movement. Three times we encountered a zombie or a Goblin, but thanks to the great success of Momo's □Shadow□, I killed them without danger.

However, my level didn't rise. After all, the experience value obtained by different type of monsters might be different. And also, the value of experience necessary for a level up would increase at every level.

Then, after about 20 minutes after leaving the apartment.

□Fuuh..... Finally arrived..... □

□Wafuuu.... □

Finally, we were arrived at the convenience store.

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Chapter 13

Source: Antheor

Report

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□Yosh, let's enter..... □

□Wan. □

After I make sure that there are no monsters in the surroundings, I and Momo enter the convenience store. The electricity in the store was gone. Broken windows and goods were scattered on the floor. Rather than being the act of monsters, I think it's the act of thieves taking advantage from the situation.

□There are things left unexpectedly..... □

There is a lot of foods and drinks left in the store, maybe they couldn't take all of them. One after another, I use the Storage of my Item box to take items.

But the amount is huge. It might take a long time to store all of this. I'm walking around the store while storing the goods. Then, I found something to worry about.

□..... Hm?□

Reaching the □something□casually lying on the floor. It's a blue pebble.

□Is this..... don't tell me, a magic stone?□

Looking at it again, it's certainly the same shape and color of the magic stones I got after I defeated the Goblins before. When I threw it in my storage□Goblin's magic stone (minimal) x1 unit□appeared.

□Was there a battle in this place..... ?□

But if so, why is a magic stone down here?

□..... Because they hurried and escaped?□

For example, if you accidentally encountered Goblins while you are thieving this place, taking advantage of the situation, if you manage to defeat one and escape in a hurry, you have no time to confirm such a thing. If you include the announcement that you hear after that, you wouldn't think something was left at the post.

□Well, I will receive this thank you. □

I give it to Momo. Momo ate the magic stone happily. There was only one magic stone around.

I turn to the back of the convenience store next.

□Eeh, The back side of a convenience store is like this . □

Going inside the staff's doorway from inside the shop, I take a look inside.

This is the first time I'm looking at the back of a convenience store like this.

Here's what it looks like. You can see the inside of the store from the gap between pet bottles. Something like this feels fresh. I'm a little excited.

Fortunately, this place wasn't devastated. Most of the things were left untouched. It's a good story for me.

□There are a lot of boxes. □

Coffee, tea , liquor and so on were inside cardboards. Food and especially bentos as well. Well, it's a convenience store, so since they don't have too much inventory, they stored food with severe expiration date? Ah, there is also magazines that aren't released yet. Let me thank you.

□Momo, are you waiting..... Are?□

There is no answer from Momo. When I tried to think about what happened, I look over at the inside of the store. Momo caught something in its mouth and headed over my place. In the mouth was a small bag of dog food grabbed securely.

□..... Do you want it?□

□Wan. □

It seems to desire it. But the moment I replied, the dog food fell to the floor. Momo holds it in its mouth again.

□..... Momo, do you want it?□

□Wan. □

SFX: Potoh. Dropped again. Momo takes it again in a hurry. Kawaii.

I feel sorry for Momo but I'm too nasty, I let it pick again. I want to watch another time. I'm receiving the pouch of dog food from Momo and throw it inside the Storage of the Item box.

□Kuuun?□

Eh, how did it disappear? You won't let me eat? Momo's gaze comes to my appeal.

□It's not good. You already ate dog food a little while ago. I'll give you a proper meal later, so be patient. □

□..... Wafun. □

It was an answer without confidence. .... No? I won't give up? When you have such glittering eyes! With my mind becoming a demon, I endured the eyes of Momo. Momo finally gave up. Fuh, yare yare. It was a tough battle.....

Then, a few minutes later.

□Fuuuu... This is about everything..... □

Finally I finished the storage operation. Everything from the shop fitted inside my Item box eventually. This list becomes tremendously huge. With this alone I guess we can eat for at least half a year. It's by the premise of me staying alone.

Now, what do we do? Looking at the watch, the time was already around three o'clock in the afternoon. It's time for a snack. No, no.

I want to secure a safe place by sunset. If there are nocturnal monsters it will be troublesome. Should I give up the search for today and return to my apartment? At the worst, if I take turns with Momo, I will be able to rest a little.

□Hm?□

This is how I thought at the time something strange appeared in the distant direction. In a distant building. White cloth was fluttering from the roof there.

□What is this?□

There is indeed a super large shopping mall here. I used to go there all the time on holiday.



From the Storage list, I take out □Binoculars□. Using them, I magnify the white cloth and watch it. Although it was a bit hoarse, there's a SOS written there.

□Are you a survivor?□

What to do? Should I go? But, I have some disgusting feelings from this.....

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Chapter 14

Source: Antheor

Report

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After all, I and Momo decided to head for the shopping mall.

It should be around fifteen minutes from here. But considering the time I took going from the convenience store from my apartment, it'll probably take twice that amount.

It's quiet on the way. There was less encounters with monsters than when heading for the convenience store.

We met only one zombie and one goblin. When I knocked the Goblin with the washing machine, I leveled. Hooray. Quickly, I hide behind an alley and immediately allocate points.

Adjusting to the remaining amount, I now have 14 JP. Of course□Spy□got raised to level 9. And then□Stealthy steps□,□Observation□,□Improved hearing□and□Covert action□all increased once. With that, I can confirm that every time a job goes up 3 times, the level of the skill goes up once.

After another level, □Spy□will finally reach LV10. If you reach LV 10, maybe something will happen. Don't be too thrilled.

Then, the SP. Combined with the points last time, I got 23 points. Body strengthening and Item box are now LV7. Concealment is LV2 and Swordsmanship LV3. The remaining 2 points are spare.

Kudou Kazuto Level 5. HP : 22/22 → 27/27 MP: 4/4 → 5/5 Strength : 38 → 46 Endurance! 36 → 43 Agility : 59 → 68 Dexterity : 58 → 67 Magic : 0 Magic resistance : 0 SP : 23 → 2 JP : 14 → 5

Job. Spy LV9.

Unique skill : Precocious

Skills: Stealthy steps LV4, Observation LV4, Improved hearing LV4, Covert action LV6. Body strengthening LV7, Swordsmanship LV3, Stress tolerance LV2, Fear resistance LV2, Hostility perception LV3, Crisis perception LV4, Concealment LV2, Item box LV7.

After checking my status, I start moving again. By the way, I found a good weapon when moving. This is a weapon I wanted to try for a long time since I saw a certain young adult fiction. It entered my Item box without problem. And after about 20 minutes, Momo and I reached close to the mall.

□..... I can hear the sound of battle. □

□Wan..... □

I could hear it in the middle of the maneuver but now I can hear it even clearer.

Screamings and shooting sounds. And the scream of monsters.

—- Someone is fighting a monster.

□Over there..... □

We reached the shopping mall a few meters away. I and Momo hide in the bushes using the □Concealment□skill. After various verifications I understood the use of the □Concealment□and a nice bonus came with it. If I hide when I hold Momo, the effect would be applied to it as well. This is convenient, a splendid skill. What is even more splendid, I can use the skill as an excuse to hold Momo. Mofumofu, so warm. It feels good. Moreover, if you scrub around the stomach's belly, it will leave a pleasant □Wafuuu.....

□What a godly BGM. It's a wonderful skill.

□Now, what is the situation..... □

Do I need binoculars at this distance? Near the entrance of the shopping mall, there was a fierce battle between people and monsters.

In front of the entrance, cars, trucks, chairs and tables that would have been used for the barricade are left battered. About ten men are fighting to protect the entrance where the barricade was broken. One is fighting with an iron pipe, one with a sasumata<sup>1</sup>)I let you google this, it's a sort of stick used to catch criminals by police and another a hatchet. About two people policemen are mixed with the people. They're fighting with batons. You don't use guns?..... No, they're already out of ammunitions.

The opponent they were fighting was an Orc. I was planning to reach the SOS flag I've seen, but I wasn't ready to find a group of monsters forcing their way through a barricade.

□Looking at it again, it's huge, that Orc..... □

It's a huge body that cannot be compared to Goblins. When you compare it to the men fighting, it's no more than two meters beyond. In its hand was a huge butcher knife. They are five in total.

Even though the difference is about twice, they are fighting on even ground. They're strong..... It's definitely much stronger than a Goblin.

Because of the thickness of that subcutaneous fat, blunt weapons such as batons and iron pipes aren't getting through. However, the length of the survival knife and the hatchet are far different compared to the Orc's butcher knife. Above all, the Orcs are obviously more accustomed to combat. The two people who look like policemen are doing a good job? Did they level up?

□No matter how you look at it, the side of the humans is at a disadvantage.

□

What is the most worrisome is the Orc at the back of the Orc's union. That guy has a larger build than the other Orcs. In addition, while the skin of the other Orcs is yellow, this one has brown skin. Obviously, it's different from the other Orcs.

“An higher species of Orc?”

High Orc. Such a word comes to my mind. “Crisis perception” is beeping a warning.

“What do we do now.....”

Should I help?

“Yes..... But hey.....”

I’m thinking about it for a moment. Let’s suppose that I broke through and help the people from this place. If I make a surprise attack with a Momo combo using my car and home appliance, I maybe be able to maneuver and reach that place. But, in the end it’s a “Maybe”. I’m not sure. No, the possibility of dying is much higher. Regardless of the Goblins and Zombies that I have fought so far, the strength of the Orcs is unknown. Besides, they are a lot. And the Orcs seem to be used to fight together.

In this situation, is there any advantage of doing that?

Experience will be available. Maybe my level will go up too. These people would be grateful for my help. We may be able to obtain various valuable information from them.

Then — after that?

I’m certain they’d rely on me. As a “war potential” to secure their own safety.

And my strategy with the Item box. I’m certain there’ll be a lot of question about the Item box. There’s characters like that. If there’s a man good at questioning and speaking, I have no confidence to hide it.

I’m sure they’ll make a request. They’d said that I should also share food.

“This is the situation”, “Let’s help each others in trouble?” Such convenient lines could be arranged.

However, “Because I save you, now you have to follow what I say” is something absolutely impossible for my character.

After this, they might bounce on me to be a baggage holder. It’s based on a former corporate slave. I’m sure it will flow like this. It would continue until I escape somewhere to a safe place. For strangers I don’t even know.

..... Honestly, it’s troublesome.

Advertising

References [ + ]

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Chapter 15

Source: Antheor

Report

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—— Honestly, it’s troublesome.

When I thought so, I realized surprisingly that I’m a good-for-nothing. But, why is it strangely good? Isn’t everyone’s own life the best? This is such a

world. Make yourself a priority over others. I think this is the fittest way of survival.

Is it a wrong thing?

No it's not. This can't be wrong.

That's why we can't understand what people are thinking. Their barricade is broken and they fight desperately. Why do they keep fighting so desperately without running away?

It's easy. They are probably earning time. Other people — perhaps are using this time to escape from the rear door.

□Please don't let them through here. Even a little, we need to earn time for the people to escape!□□□□OOOOOOOO!!□□□

As if to answer my thoughts, the men who are fighting raise a roar and encourage themselves. There's no doubt. They literally earn time by risking their lives. The time others are using to escape, even if only a little more.

□..... Are you serious. To do such a thing, I can't do that..... □

I definitely don't want to imitate them..... Why are they so desperate? Is that it? Because your family or your loved ones are inside? Well, if it was me, I would still give priority to myself over others.

□After all I want to run..... □

I can't. I don't like those people. The weather is getting cloudy and it's going to rain, let's withdraw early.

□Kuuun?□

Momo in my arms raises its voice. Can I? It seemed to ask.

□..... Ah, let's forsake those people. Momo.. .. Are you the opposite?□

□..... Wan. □

After a while, Momo answers. It seemed to say, it's fine if we leave. Momo agreed with me, I was a little relieved.

□I understand. Well, Momo. Please use the □Shadow□at my signal. At the same time, I'll also unwrap the □Concealment□. After that, let's run. □

□Wan!□

Momo agrees and I try to unwrap the □Concealment□. At that moment — there is a change in the battle.

□Hm?□

The High Orc which refrained to move from the background began to. Anxiety runs in the face of the men.

What are they going to do? The High Orc moves only a few steps forwards and breaths slowly. At that moment, my whole body freezes.

— Hh!! Bad!! Something's coming! An unthinkable□something bad□□

In that evidence, the other orcs stop the battle at once and distance themselves from the men. Then, they take a stance, cross their arms and prepare for something. The men stare at the strange behavior of the Orcs.

□Momo! Let my whole body wear□Shadow□!Immediately!□

Momo, whether she was alerted by the danger, used the □Shadow□ from Shadow manipulation at the same time I gave my instruction.

Momo's [Shadow] covers my whole body. In this state, I crouched on the spot so as to cover Momo.

The next moment, the High Orc [Roar]

[OooooooooooooooooooooOoo Ooo Oho!!!!!]

[Hhhh!]

The cry becomes a physical apocalypse spreading to the surroundings. Like an electric shock, the atmosphere was trembling. Seriously. The stone pavement peels off and cracks run on the exposed ground. The glasses from the shopping mall and the surrounding buildings crumbled and fell on the ground.

Only a few seconds. The scream of an instant seemed like a forever catastrophe to the surroundings.

[———Hh! Haa, haa, haa.. .. Momo, are you okay?

[.. .. Kuuuun.. .. ]

Although it was weak, there was a reply. What the hell, that momentous [Roar] .. .. ?

Is there a scream that can ignore the laws of physics? No, it's probably a [Skill]. I'm not aware of its name, but the [Roar] skill brings extensive destruction. The one the High Orc used.

I lean forward just a little and look at the front.

[Nah..... ?]

The people who were fighting in front of the entrance were all collapsed, blood gushing from their whole bodies. Dead. They're definitely dead.

The High Orc raises his hand. The other Orcs stormed inside the shopping mall at the signal. You're going to hunt the people who are sieged.

Looking at the other Orcs entering the shopping mall, the High Orc follows right after. However, its foot stops unexpectedly. When I wonder what happened— Its gaze turns to [My direction].

[Hhhh!!!]

Our gaze met. Even if we're separated from dozens of meters. I'm sure the skill [Concealment] is active.

Clearly, his gaze turned to me.

And then — that guy laughed. It looked at me and laughed from the bottom of its heart.

Dangerous, dangerous dangerous, dangerous dangerous dangerous!

[Hahhahhahhahhaahaa]

My heart seems to burst as hard as the laughter. My breathing got strange. Death. This word floats in my head.

<<Proficiency has reached a sufficient level. >> <<The skill Fear resistance rose from LV2 to LV3. >>

<<Proficiency has reached a sufficient level. >> <<The skill Fear resistance rose from LV3 to LV4. >>

<<Proficiency has reached a sufficient level. >> <<The skill Stress tolerance rose from LV2 to LV3. >>

<<Proficiency has reached a sufficient level. >> <<The skill Stress tolerance rose from LV3 to LV4. >>  
 <<Proficiency has reached a sufficient level. >> <<The skill Hostility perception rose from LV3 to LV4. >>  
 <<Proficiency has reached a sufficient level. >> <<The skill Crisis perception rose from LV4 to LV5. >>  
 <<Proficiency has reached a sufficient level. >> <<The skill Fear resistance rose from LV4 to LV5. >>  
 <<Meeting certain conditions>> <<Skill [Getaway] is now available>>  
 <<Meeting certain conditions>> <<Skill [Defense instinct] is now available>>  
 There's a lot of announcements inside my head. But there was no room for them right now.  
 I don't want to die. I don't want to die. It was the only thing buried inside my head.  
 It's raining. The drops hit my face.  
 [Hih!]  
 For a moment, I thought the High Orc was going to attack but a miserable voice came out. The High Orc scorns at my figure and takes his eyes off me. It disappeared into the mall.  
 I'm saved. Apparently, I seem to have been overlooked.  
 Instantly, Momo's [Shadow] and my [Concealment] are lifted. Then we ran far away from the place.  
 Dangerous. This is dangerous.  
 Flee. I run away with my best. In the pouring rain, even a little farther away. Beyond the sight of that High Orc. That monster is different. This monster is clearly [Different] from others  
 [Haah... Haah..... !]  
 It's useless. I can't stay like this.  
 I'd die. I will die someday.  
 I don't want to die. I don't want to die.  
 [Da..... Damn..... ]  
 I have to become stronger. With Momo. Stronger than I am now.  
 To survive.  
 Advertising

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 Chapter 16  
 Source: Antheor  
 Report

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 The route from where I came, I can't remember it at all. Night fell before I could even notice. In the rain, Momo and I desperately continued running.

I avoided fighting with monsters as much as possible. Even battles that I could obviously win against a lone Goblin or a lone zombie, I evaded them and kept running. Nether Momo nor me were calm. h  
Eventually, we ended up in my own old apartment. We got up the stairs and entered the room. With my key I closed the door and fell on the mat. The place was completely dark. I was soaked wet. And this feeling.....

□Haa..... But I'm still alive..... □

I survived. Came across that dreadful monster but I survived.

From my Item box, I took out water and food. Within plates, I pour the water and pass it with food to Momo. Then I drank from the remaining water that is inside the bottle.

□Nguh..... Nguh..... Puwah. □

Water is delicious. This water was so tasty. I drank it in a flash.

□Wan. □

Momo seemed to say it isn't having enough; with its paw it is holding the plate.

□All right, there is more. □

For a while Momo and I continue to drink water.

□Haa~~~..... □

The feeling has finally settled. I was scared. Never in my life have I felt so close to death.

What the hell, that monster. It's strange but this is so ridiculous. This Orc definitely isn't something you meet early in the game. This is definitely the kind of game where you would dump your controller on the side and return to sell it, saying the difficulty is outrageous.

No..... When I'm thinking about it now after calming down, there have been many ways to avoid that situation. In the convenience store, I sensed an □Unpleasant feeling. □. That was the work of □Crisis perception□. It was telling me : if you go the mall, there will be an High Orc. The alarm was ringing when there wasn't any superior enemy in the neighbourhood.

□According to the intuition, I should have gone another way obediently..... □

Perhaps that was the correct answer. The time I left the convenience store and headed towards the Mall, □Hostility perception□and □Crisis perception□worked properly. Disregarding them and going□Well, whatever and I'll manage. □It was my responsibility for being too optimistic. I can only say that I am a fool. The world became like a game. My skill rose, I got skills and it seems that I was too highly spirited. The fact that I was able to defeat monsters without any strain spurred my carelessness. That's why I risked my life so easily.

□Ah, shit..... Damn damn damn damn. □

I'm scratching my head. It seems my stress is wearing off a bit.

<<Proficiency has reached a sufficient level. >> <<The skill Stress tolerance rose from LV4 to LV5>>

Ah, yeah! Thank you! I'm feeling calmer now, thanks! Damn!

□Haa, I'm tired..... □

I want to sleep before anything. I want to sleep and forget for a bit.

□Wafuuu.... □

Momo seems to be tired too. There is no tension in its voice. I change my wet clothes. Take a towel and wipe Momo's body.

Sleepy. I'm really sleepy. I want to sleep. But it's okay if I sleep in this place now? If a monster attacks once I'm asleep, it's all over. But, we don't have enough strength to take turns with Momo and watch all the night.

□There's no way to escape..... □

Because I've seen the scene from a while ago, I have no choice now but to make barricades. From the item box, I take out the bigger items including the wardrobe, refrigerator and the washing machine and I place them in front of the windows and the entrance. I'm continue doing so until only the place where Momo and I will sleep is not covered. My house looks like a garbage heap. But, in this case, if a monster tries to come he won't immediately reach us and we will earn enough time to escape..... Unless this in an High Orc- class monster.

□Well then Momo, shall we sleep?□

□Wan. □

Surrounded by various type of furnitures, Momo and I went to sleep.

Probably because I was tired, I fell asleep in just a few seconds.

In this way, the first day since the world changed was over. .... Well, more exactly the second day though. Anyway, it was a very heavy day.

Good Morning. The morning came. The time is 6. 00 am. It was around 20:00 (8pm) went I went to sleep yesterday, it seems that I fell asleep for a little more than ten hours. Seems that I was very tired.

Momo is already awake. As I woke up in the morning and the first things of the day enter my eyes, the first thing I'm seeing is Momo. I was surprised for a moment.

□Wan!□

Perpero, Momo's licking my face. It seems to say good morning.

□Good morning, Momo. Have you rested with ease?□

□Wan!□

Momo shakes its tail and responds. It seems to have become completely energetic. As the morning comes with a nice Perpero, I'll stroke it properly. Yes, Mofumofu, it feels good. I'm healed~ Haa.

□..... it seems that there was no raid from monsters. □

There's no sign of the furnitures being ruined. It's good. It's really good.

Hmm~ I'm stretching, and raises my body. First, store all the furniture pieces. After making the space a little wider, I take out the bread and vegetable juice I got from the convenience store and a yogurt. For Momo, I take out the dog food she held with her mouth at the convenience store yesterday. It's a light breakfast.

After eating, I take out the basin and water then I wash my face lightly.

Then it's time for toothpaste. Yes, my head finally awakened.

□Well now.... □



I'm facing Momo.

□Momo, we need to talk. □

□Wafu?□

Momo looks at me from a sitting posture. I'm sitting in front of Momo, facing straight.

□I think..... I will hunt monsters aggressively starting today. The reason is to raise my level. □

I convey to Momo my reflection from yesterday and my idea. My awareness of this world has been too optimistic. The best way to survive is to hunt monsters and raise my level. And with my companion, it's possible to fight against monsters more efficiently.

□Of course, it isn't a reason to make unreasonable hunts. Safety comes first. If we die, we lose everything. □

□Wan. □

□That's why Momo, please let me ask you again. I want to borrow your strength. Let's survive together..... Well, I'm the one who'll rely on you since I'm unreliable myself. □

While I'm saying that with a bitter smile, Momo rubs my body. All right, let's do our best together. That's what it is saying.

□..... Thank you, Momo. □

□Wan!□

Momo barks strongly.

Yosh, then I'll do my best.

I'll definitely survive. In this monster-filled world.

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Chapter 17

Source: Antheor

Report

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Now, should I check my status before going outside? I didn't have enough spare time to check yesterday. Status screen, open.

Kudou Kazuto Level 5. HP: 27/27 MP: 5/5 Strength: 46 Endurance: 43

Agility: 68 Dexterity: 67 Magic : 0 Magic resistance : 0 SP: 2 JP : 5

Job. Spy LV9.

Unique skill : Precocious

Skills: Stealthy steps LV4, Observation LV4, Improved hearing LV4, Covert action LV6. Body strengthening LV7, Swordsmanship LV3, Stress tolerance LV5, Fear resistance LV5, Hostility perception LV4, Crisis perception LV5, Concealment LV2, Item box LV7.

Party members Momo Shiba Inu LV2

The level of Stress tolerance, Fear resistance, Hostility perception, Crisis perception have all increased. Yesterday so many things happened; but now

that I'm looking at it, the levels of my skills have risen considerably. Though I faced death, there was some return. It's not balanced at all.

By the way, it's saying that I can acquire new skills. Click on the Skill field. Thereupon, besides "Initially available skill list" there's the new category "Additional available Skill list". When I click on it, a new list appears.

"List of the additional earned skills" Getaway, Defense instinct.

"Getaway" and "Defense instinct" huh..... Heavenly voice certainly said

"Meeting certain conditions".

"Certain conditions..... "

I'm trying to guess. My actions, circumstances or desire, in reality, create new skills? The situation when they became available and the name these skills are too much for a coincidence. In other words, facing various situations, it means there's the possibility of obtaining many skills. That's dangerous and I don't want to face it, but it might be worth a try.

But oh well, let's acquire the two new skills before that. Click on the "Getaway" skill.

<<The cost is 2SP, do you want to learn the skill "Getaway"?>>

Are? 2 points? Isn't it supposed to be 1? After some clicks and tests, apparently, the initial skills are 1 point whereas the additional skills are 2 points each.

2 points..... Both skills are attractive and I should lose nothing by acquiring one. The other one shall be learned when my level rise. Let's get a hold on "Getaway" for the time being.

<<The cost is 2SP, do you want to learn the skill "Getaway"?>>

Yes.

<<Skill "Getaway" Acquired. >>

Yosh, this should give me some help when I escape from monsters. That skill is, but It hurts me a bit thinking that I can't test it without encountering another painful situation, I think this is the kind of effect the skill should have though.

Perhaps I should add, there's an expenditure of SP when I first learn a skill. But there are two methods to raise them afterward without spending. The first is by raising the level of my job, the level of skills concerned would rise accordingly. The second is when I reach a sufficient proficiency with a skill, its level will automatically increase. That will save on my SP consumption. The upfront investment is important, isn't it? Other than stocks. That would be a loss absolutely. When my level goes up next, it may be good to learn the other skills early including all the initial ones.

"Hm?"

Unexpectedly, when I looked at Momo, it was staring at something from a sitting position. There's nothing in sight ahead. There's only a wall. Then it slowly began to hit the ground, PonPon. What is it doing?

"..... Momo? Why are you doing that?"

When I talked to Momo, it faced toward me.

□Wan!□

Momo answers cheerfully.

□Is there something to worry about?□

□Wan! Wan!□

It looks really happy, rubbing her body on me and all. Hmm? What's the matter? With its gesture, it seems to ask for some praise. And the mysterious behavior of earlier. Does that mean.....

□..... Say, Momo. Do you mean, you got a new□Skill□maybe?□

□Wan!□

As soon as I told it, the tail violently begin to shake, saying that I was right. Seriously? I was joking, but did you really acquire any new skills? The

□Heavenly voice□, I wonder if Momo can hear it too.

□Are you sure? What kind of skill?□

□Wan!□

Momo revolves around and jump a little farther away from me. And right after, it does it and look at me again. So I say.

□..... Etto, what do you mean?□

□Wafu!□

Once again, it does the same thing. Eh? What? What kind of skill is this? Is it a skill that makes you turn and bounce? Rotate and fly..... No way, that super famous doggy special move—.

□Wan! Wafuu!□

Was vehemently denied. It appears to be different. Then, what kind of skill is it? Momo did the same thing over and over but I didn't understand it.

Since I couldn't understand it, Momo is severely depressed.

□..... Kuuuun..... □

I'm sorry, Momo. Afterwards, I kept mopping for a while until it eventually managed to recover its mood.

□Well then, shall we depart?□

□Wan. □

I put all the furniture that I took out for the barricade in the Storage then Momo followed me outside. The rain had stopped. The morning sun is dazzling.

□The smoke that was seen rising in some places have disappeared..... □

Thanks to the rain of yesterday, fires were pretty much extinguished. I can see the town properly. At the tip of my line of sight, I could see yesterday's shopping mall.

□Do you think that High Orc is still there?□

Otherwise, it's possible they already moved to hunt more people. I must raise my level already.

□..... Hm?□

Promptly, I sensed a reaction from□Hostility perception□. But it's not that big of a feeling. In fact, compared to yesterday's□Unpleasant feeling□, this time it's more of a□You should be careful a little. □kind.

□This isn't on this floor, then..... at the first floor?□

Since the level of my skill has risen, the range where I can perceive□Hostility□increased alongside. Making use of□Stealthy steps□and□Covert action□, I slowly descend the stairs. By the way, Momo's current status is to be in my embrace. It's with this method that we quickly descend the stairs.

□Wafun. □

Momo seems to be in a good mood when I'm holding it. Stop it. Don't look at me with such eyes. It'll be ever more difficult to release you!

We arrived at the first floor. With an aching heart, I release Momo. Guu.....

The reaction Hostility perception gives me come a little further ahead.

When I finally see it, I found it's a monster near the parking lot.

□It's a zombie..... □

The zombie roamed around the parking lot alone. There's no other monster in sight. I'm aiming for the right timing.

I take out the dumbbell from the Item box and approach in a stretch. His head shatters.

<<Earning experience points>>

The zombie disappears, and the magic stone rolls. Yosh, it's a good sign.

Temporarily, let's make zombies and goblins the main target of our hunting.

Of course, in the opposite direction to that shopping mall. Safety comes first.

Advertising

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Chapter 18

Source: Antheor

Report

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Momo and I are walking the city again. Due to yesterday's rain, there's a puddle here and there. Doing my best to avoid them, I'm looking for monsters. The ideals are lone Goblin or lone zombie. Two of them..... No, even three I should be able to deal with them using a quick combo with Momo's □Shadow□.

The problem is when other monsters appear. Especially Orcs. After seeing the battle of yesterday, not only that High Orc, but also normal Orcs boast of quite the high ability.

I wish they had some weaknesses.... Even in fantasy, there are such weak points like fire against zombies or holy water against vampires. But Orcs does not have any of these weak points. Their strong urges are heavy sexual desires, I can only think of a woman knight as a staple. Well, if you meet one you have to run away or get past through. At least for□Now□.

□There are so many corpses..... □

Since they died they have been left unattended. There's no one to clean up.

□Speaking of which, what is the government and Japan self-defense force doing right now?□

Already two days had passed since the world became like this. There should be rescue activities taking place in various areas I think, but in this situation where I can't use TV or the Net, I have no way to confirm.

□More precisely, is the government even functioning properly in this situation..... ?□

Before, when I watched that producer's 1)Dunno of who or what it is □□○□□ movie, a special countermeasure office was set, and anyone, be it JSDF2)Japan Self-defense Force shortened as JSDF or various officials were put on the move. Actually, is it possible for it to run like that now? No, it might be the image I have of politicians and bureaucrats who are biased. Something like that happened! I'll run away! That's the kind of image I have, they would probably flee to the shelter or to a safety zone first, furthermore making wasteful usage of their authority. Am I watching movies too much?

In the first place, did monsters only appear in Japan? Or all around the world? I'm of the impression that monsters are everywhere in the world now.

□Unexpectedly, there should be more people surviving in developing areas of the world. □

□Safety□and□Survival□are totally different things. If you're a person already in a conflict zone, you probably won't be shaken even if a monster comes out?

□They could even use nuclear weapons..... □

Even the citizens, they might be annihilated together with monsters.....

Later in the news,□They were precious sacrifices. We must carve their lives in our heart and we must live. □could be reported like this. Wow, that's some horrible thinking. But I'm still scared because I know there are countries capable of doing this.

After all, I should also gather information together when raising levels. But, I can't use internet or TV. To begin with, it really hurts me that there's no electricity. Even if the water supply and gas are still usable, there's absolutely no electricity. Is this only in this neighborhood, or everywhere? If electricity can be used in other areas, I should head over there.

□Once again, I can understand the blessings of civilization..... □

Electricity is truly great. Because it's great, we depend on it. For some of the all-electric houses in this area, it can already be considered hell. They'd have to leave the house. You can still use battery-powered appliances such as flashlight or alarm clock, but their numbers are quite limited.

□Wan. □

Oops. While I was thinking, Momo barked. There's a goblin at the corner of my view. Only one. Let's aim for the right timing.

□Yosh, Momo. Let's hunt. □

□Wan!□

With a stealth approach so that it doesn't notice me, I swiftly stabbed it to death. I was able to defeat it without a problem, but my level didn't rise.

How many hunts will I have to do until the next level?

After that, we walked around the city and hunted three more Zombies and two more Goblins. Somehow, there are fewer encounters than yesterday.....

I'm not encountering a lot of living people either. Because —

□There are many people who are unexpectedly staying at home. □

When I was walking through the streets, I saw many people hanging flags and towels of SOS from the veranda of their apartments or from windows or porch of their houses. They're probably poised to hold a siege. As the time goes by, the difference between□Running people□,□Fighting people□and□Unmoving people□ is clearly increasing.

□But you know... □

If it's a zombie, you may be able to hold him out until rescuers come. But now the city is full of monsters actively hunting people. Even if you hold a siege against such monsters, isn't it a meaningless way to answer? Actually, when I got out yesterday, the Goblins were exploring the rooms of my apartment.

□Well, if they have a□Job□or□Skills□it is a different story..... □

For example, □Shut-in□was one of the suitable jobs for me. It's the type of job that exerts stronger powers by staying at a house rather than going out.

No, in the first place I'm not a □Shut-in□but. That's something I'll never choose. Would there be a person foolish enough to kill a monster, raise his level for finally select the job□NEET3)Not in Education, Employment or Training. □ There shouldn't be anyone obviously.

□Well, basic skills right..... □

There seem to not be a lot of merits awarded to someone who just sits and wait for rescuers. If it doesn't go well, you'd have to defend yourself. In this situation, it's impossible. Rather, it's troublesome.

I'm still thinking about my struggle to raise this level. So, I decided to ignore any sign asking for rescue and went on. Well, over there. Pray for□Good People□to appear before they get attacked by monsters.

After that, Momo and I kept hunting monsters. Thus it happened when defeated two Goblins who wandered together.

<<The experience has reached a sufficient level. >> <<Kudou Kazuto rose from level 5 to level 6. >>

Good. The announcement of the level-up sounds in my head. After confirming that I received the usual 20 SP and 10JP. My balance of JP is now 15. The level of □Spy□will immediately be raised to ten.

<<Do you want to increase the LV of spy by consuming 10 JP?>>

Of course, I choose yes. Then now..... What will happen?

<<The Spy job reached a sufficient level. >>

<<You can now select among the following advanced jobs or derived jobs. >>

<<The second job is unlocked. >>

<<Advanced job□Assassin□unlocked. >> <<Advanced job□Agent□unlocked. >>  
<<Advanced job□Thief□unlocked. >>  
<<Meeting certain conditions regarding jobs. >>  
<<Derived job□Informer□unlocked. >> <<Derived job□Hunter□unlocked. >>  
<<Derived job□Crisis thief4)Chrisis thief: It's a thief that take advantage of  
crisis□unlocked. >> <<Derived job□Beast user□unlocked. >>  
New possibilities. New stages. They're offered to me.

Advertising

References [ + ]

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Chapter 19

Source: Antheor

Report

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A new job. A new power. □Advanced job□. And also derived job, the second.  
They are presented in front of me.

This is really a game-like system. Is there something like a tree of jobs?

□Wan!□

□Well..... I know, Momo. Let's move to a place where no one can interrupt  
us first. □

Urged by Momo, we enter a vacant house where there are poor signs of a  
monster. Since the door was broken, maybe there's already a monster  
inside? There's no reaction from□Hostility perception□and□Crisis  
perception□.

The inside was badly messed up. I'm glad there isn't a corpse. The smell  
bothers me. If there's a pleasant feeling, will you receive it later?

□Yosh here. □

I sit on the cotton-protruding sofa. Status screen, open. Click on the current  
job□Spy□.

<<It's possible to convert to a more advanced job. Please choose a job. >>

Assassin. Agent. Thief.

The Heavenly voice flow and choices appear. There are 3 advanced jobs  
for□Spy□.....

□Agent□somehow feel like a completely compatible upgrade for spy□Spy□.  
Does it imply its strength will be increased?

□Assassin□would be literally a specialization in assassinations. It seems  
convenient for surprise attacks.

□Thief□That..... Somehow doesn't feel like a fighting job. This is a job  
specialized in breaking through in RPGs, breaking or unlocking security  
equipments like traps. What about the criterias in this world?

□Well, it's a bit too early to judge at this time..... □

The classical fantasy Appraisal-sama. Because I have the seal Item box it doesn't matter too much if I can't have it. Well, I would be asking for too much so it can't be helped.

Oh, right. Can I now select a second job?

If I'm not mistaken, I unlocked derived jobs. After verifying, there is a growing number of jobs I can now choose from. Informer, Hunter, Crisis thief and Beast user. Four new entries. In addition to them, It appears I can choose my second job, including the other jobs initially offered.

The rest of the beginning's jobs are as follows. Citizen, Adventurer, Clerk, Negotiator, shut-in, NEET, trainee monk, cook, rider.

The JP necessary to advance my current job are 3. For my second job, I'd need to add 2 points. Because my current balance is 5 points, it easily fits with them.

..... Worries me.....

Depending on the combination of the advanced primary job and the derived secondary job, there would be the possibility to obtain more powerful skill combo and effects. Two candidates for the second job should be Hunter and Beast user right? The Hunter seems to be a profession specialized for searching monsters. Whereas with Beast user my combination with Momo would increase.

Hum.....

What to do? For the sake of survival..... Which one would be the best combination to resist the threat of monsters? There's a limit about my abilities to outrun things. When you have to fight then you have to fight. I'm keenly aware of that.

After a lot of hypothetical complains, I selected the advanced job Assassin and Hunter as the secondary job. Considering I will have to fight against monsters, Assassin seems to be better for that purpose than Agent and Thief. It also fits my style. Surprise attacking, deceiving and foul plays are my primary ways.

The second job is Hunter. Because I thought it would make the way I hunt monsters more efficient with Assassin. I thought of Beast user at first but I turned it off. Why you ask? Obviously because Momo and I are already the best pair! There's no need for a job correction of any sort!

..... Putting the joke aside. It's because I think Beast user is based on ordinary animals. And as far as I think, this category does not apply to Momo at all. It actively hunts for monsters itself, raise its level and it's far wiser than other dogs. If we make the necessary arrangements in advance, we can already handle high level combinations.

Moreover Beast user is the same level of job as Spy. Even if I choose it now, there won't be too many changes. And for now, I do not feel like bringing other animals than Momo.

By the way, Crisis thief and Informer are excluded from the beginning. Somehow, they have an intense smell of being "landmine jobs".



Now, let's change to our new jobs. Consuming 3JP to advance my job to a higher one.

<<The job Spy has been changed for the advanced job [Assassin]. >>

<<With the job currently becoming Assassin. Skill [Soundless movements] acquired. Skill [Night vision] acquired. Skill [Vital strike] acquired. Skill [Awareness isolation] acquired. Skill [Appraisal obstructions] acquired.

<<Skill Stealthy steps integrated into Soundless movements. >> <<The skill Soundless movements rose from LV1 to LV3. >>

<<Skill Covert action integrated into Awareness isolation. >> <<The skill Awareness isolation rose from LV1 to LV4. >>

Oh, I have the feeling that I got quite the good skills. The skills I received are upwardly compatible with the ones I already acquired so far. When you acquire the upper version of a skill, the lower skills are integrated into it, I see. Alongside the integration, the level will also rise.

That's pretty good. Every one of them give a feeling of being specialized for assassination. If I use them in a good combination, the battle will be easier than ever.

And the last thing interesting me is the [Appraisal obstruction]. After all, since there is an [Appraisal obstruction], then there must be an [Appraisal] skill. Moreover, when you think about the name of the skill I obtained, with [Appraisal] it should be possible to see the status of others. In other words, [Appraisal] certainly isn't a unique skill. It's a skill anyone should be able to learn. The conditions are unknown for now, perhaps it is a higher version of the beginner skills. If someone can learn it at present he can be considered lucky.

Yosh, next it's the second job.

<<——Selecting the second job [Hunter]. 2 JP are required. Are you sure? >>

Select Yes.

<<Secondary job has become [Hunter]. Skill [Scan for enemies] acquired.

Skill [Telephoto] acquired. Skill [Agility enhancement] acquired.

Skill [Dexterity enhancement] acquired.

Oh, here I got another bunch of pleasant skills. It seems necessary to verify the effect of each skill.

Kudou Kazuto Level 6. HP : 27/27 → 30/30 MP : 5/5 → 6/6 Strength : 46 → 50  
Endurance : 43 → 47 Agility : 68 → 92 Dexterity: 67 → 90 Magic : 0 Magic  
resistance : 0 SP : 22 JP : 5 → 0

Job. Assassin Lv1 Hunter LV1

Unique skill : Precocious

Skills: Soundless movements LV3, Night vision LV1, Vital strike LV1, Awareness isolation LV4, Appraisal obstruction LV1. Scan for enemies LV1, Telephoto LV1, Agility enhancement LV1, Dexterity enhancement LV1.

Observation LV4, Improved hearing LV4. Body strengthening LV7,

Swordsmanship LV3, Stress tolerance LV5, Fear resistance LV5, Hostility

perception LV4, Crisis perception LV5, Concealment LV2, Gateway LV1, Item box LV7.

Party members Momo Shiba Inu LV3

Agility and Dexterity broke out to an absurd level. With the effect of [Agility enhancement] and [Agility enhancement]. Unlike the skill [Body strengthening] which makes status rise evenly, the others make only one status rise exponentially. From the current condition of my status, one level should be an increase of + 10? Because body strengthening is +5 in each stats for a level, the increase in stats is twice as much..... Is it proper or even reasonable?

Then, I still have 22 SP. After that I have to confirm the effect of my new skill, and I need to see whether it's best to learn new skills or to increase the level of the ones I already possess.

Also, Momo's level casually went up to 3. When was it.....

Advertising

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Chapter 20

Source: Antheor

Report

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Let's examine the newly acquired skills. There's 9 new skills.

Soundless movements LV3. Night vision LV1. Vital strike LV1. Awareness isolation LV4. Appraisal obstruction LV1. Search LV1. Telephoto Lv1. Agility enhancement LV1. Dexterity enhancement LV1.

They multiplied in an instant..... Regarding Agility enhancement and Dexterity enhancement, the effects have already been found out. Each level is a correction of +10 for agility or dexterity. Considering that my initial agility was on, it's a great effect. It's ten times, ten times. My body is very light.

is [Appraisal obstruction]. This is probably functioning as stated. If it's LV1, it might be possible to interfere with the equivalent LV1 Appraisal.

[Soundless movements] I walked through the room to see. This is amazing. No sound at all. There is nothing. No sound of footsteps and no sound made by the clothes that would usually happen.

But of course, it's not almighty. For example, smells. It seems I cannot hide my smell, so I couldn't pass Momo. I must pay attention to monsters with strong olfactory senses. But in combination with [Awareness isolation], it will prove very useful when launch a surprise attack.

[Vital strike] can only be used in actual battle. Is this something I can try on Momo. Momo abuse, it's not allowed, never. Well, if I take the skill according to its name, the effect should be obvious and hitting an opponent vital point easier. That's a skill all Assassins should have in common.

□Night vision□,□Search□and□Telephoto□are also all useful skills. Night vision is literally a skill that allows you to see the scenery clearly in the dark. It's the same as seen on TV. The same as an image seen by a camera for Night vision. It looks roughly the same.

Telephoto is a skill to see things far away. If it's something dozens of meters away, you can see it with the same precision as if you are standing right in front.

Search is a skill that gives hints about the living creatures around you. The effective range is a radius of about 10 meters for now. When I tried by getting away from Momo, the size was around that much.

All three skills are dependent on their levels. The effects or ranges they give will be higher when their levels increase. They are all practical and excellent skills.

□Then, how should I allocate my points?□

My balance is 22 points. Oh, but I want to keep several in case I need new skills.

Should I get the □Defense instinct□I set aside last time? This is a 2 points consumption.

among the initial skills I could acquire. Paralysis resistance, Poison resistance, Virus resistance, Heat resistance, Tamper tolerance, HP automatic recovery. These six are acquired.

Any skill that adds resistance is a good bet. Tamper tolerance..... Well, just in case. Also, HP recovery will become indispensable when hunting. All the early skills are 1 points. So in total, it's a consumption of 6 points.

The remaining 14 points will be used to raise the level of existing skills. Search LV3, Dexterity enhancement LV2, Agility enhancement LV3 and Paralysis resistance LV2.

Yosh, this is it.

Kudou Kazuto Level 6. HP : 30/30 MP: 6/6 Strength : 50 Endurance : 47  
Agility : 92 → 112 Dexterity :90 → 100 Magic : 0 Magic resistance : 0 SP : 22  
→ 0 JP: 0

Job. Assassin Lv1 Hunter LV1

Unique skill : Precocious

Skills: Soundless movements LV3, Night vision LV1, Vital strike LV1, Awareness isolation LV4, Appraisal obstruction LV1. Search LV3, Telephoto LV1, Agility enhancement LV3, Dexterity enhancement LV2. Observation LV4, Improved hearing LV4. Body strengthening LV7, Swordsmanship LV3, Stress tolerance LV5, Fear resistance LV5, Poison resistance LV1, Paralysis resistance LV2, Virus resistance LV1, Heat resistance LV1, Tamper tolerance LV1, HP automatic recovery LV1, Hostility perception LV4, Crisis perception LV5, Concealment LV2, Gateway LV1, Defense instinct LV1, Item box LV7.

Party members Momo Shiba Inu LV3

Agility and dexterity finally broke through 100. It's a terrifying growth compared to my initial status. Fuh, I'm not scared of anything anymore. ....

It's a lie. I'm scared. However my status rise, it's rooted down in me.....  
Safety first, self-protection is the most important.

□Oh, is it the time already?□

When I looked at the clock, the time is around eleven o'clock. My choice of jobs and skills too consumed more time than I expected. 1)Anth: And more chapters as well, probably

□Momo, it's a little early, but do you want to have lunch?□

□Wan!□

Boiling hot water in the kitchen, I make a cup of ramen. To settle the lunch, I add the rice balls to the canned food I got at the convenience store. Momo is having dog food with water.

After lunch, I did a brief meeting with Momo. By making use of simple hand gestures and signals, we can cooperate. As I thought, or should I say as expected of Momo, it easily remembered them. Good Momo.

After a little break, we sneaked outside. is combat to test my new skills.

Likewise, I want to raise my level as soon as possible.

When I walked down the street, I reached a cooperative after a while. This is a place the local elderly people use a lot. Occasionally I also used it. Even though the last time was only a few days, it feels like an eternity.

□Oya..... ?□

□Hostility perception□and□Crisis perception□as well as□Search□all sensed something. There is a monster.

After hiding behind the wall and looking at the situation, there are several Goblins on the side of a broken windowpane. Using□Telephoto□I could see what's inside of the window clearly. Really, this is a great and useful skill. Just from looking, there should be around 4 Goblins..... That's a lot. The Goblins are stuffing vegetables while arbitrarily breaking things inside. Oh, that's an inappropriate thought but the Goblin too are hungry huh.

□..... Hm?□

When I looked closely. Behind the four Goblins. There's a distinctive Goblin there. He's big. His physique is large, and his ornaments and equipments compared he is wearing compared to the other Goblins are truly splendid.

□Hobgoblin..... □

Such words float. The top species of Goblins. It's similar to the High Orc.

It's not strange since This Goblin is giving me a similar feeling.

What to do? Draw back? No, the reaction of □Crisis perception□is thin. This is totally different than the □Abnormal sense of crisis□given by the High Orc.

I also found about Momo's new skill and I became stronger myself. Can we do it? Now it's Momo and me.

□.....□

My body's quivering.

□..... Momo. □

□Wan. □

□Will you follow me?□

Momo is rubbing against my body as an answer. Haha, it seems to have more guts than I have truly, this Momo.... After stroking Momo, the tremor in my body comes to a stop. Well, let's run away as soon as it becomes dangerous.

□ Good. Well then, let's go. □

□Wan!□

I reassessed my spirit, and together with momo, we decided to coop.

~~Advertising~~

## References [ + ]

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Chapter 21 - Chapter 26

Source: Antheor

## Report

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The world is overflowing with monsters, I'm taking a liking to this life

Selfishly shortened as :

World with monsters (WWM)

ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ(Yoshaahtsu / Yoshaah)

76 (Ongoing)

Tags :

R15

## Depiction of cruelty

Male protagonist

## Modern society

## Cheat opportunity

Skill

Item Box

## Fantasy

translated from ncode :

On his way home from his office, the main protagonist drove and ran over a big dog. At that moment, he heard the sudden sound of a voice inside his head. «The monster has been subjugated, gaining experience points.»

□Eh?□ Before anyone knew, the world has changed. Monsters appear, this is a game-like world where levels, skills, and status exist. This is an adventure where the modern world becomes fantasy and where the main protagonist has to strive hard for his survival.

This novel is a recent novel on ncode (As of the 12/25/2017). It's 3 months old now, and only after 2 months, it becomes popular enough to be serialized in a light novel. The author made other novels and another one is really popular,

~~Advertising~~

## Report

~~Advertising~~

## Report

I use 'Scout' to search the area for a place I can enter from. As predicted, there was a student standing guard at the receiving dock for the supplies.

Just one person huh... If I surprised him, I might be able to get through, but there was nothing wrong with being careful either. I looked for a different entrance to get inside and found a window that seemed like it would fit that purpose. It was locked shut, but that was no problem.

"Momo."

"Bark!"

Momo appeared from the 'Shadows.' Momo's shadow slipped through the crack in the window and opened the lock from the other side. As long as there was the slightest 'Crack,' then the 'Shadow' would be able to pass through it. It really was a useful skill to have.

"Thanks, Momo."

I wanted to give her lots of pets as a reward, but I restrained myself. I lightly pat her as if placing my hand on her head, then send her into the shadows, as I enter through the window. 'Scout' had already ensured to me that there was no one on the other side of the window. Infiltration success. It was dark inside, but I had 'Night Vision' on, and so I could see just fine. Was this...a restroom for employees? There was a table and fold-up chairs set around here, there were even lockers along the walls to put your belongings in.

"It seems like someone was here until recently..."

There were a plastic bottle and half-eaten boxes of calorie mate on the table. Whoever it was, they might return. I needed to hurry.

I went out into the hallway. It was crowded with cardboard boxes and products that hadn't been put out on the store shelves yet. Since it was quite dark here, it would not be hard to hide if the need arose.

The fluorescent light in the room was off. So electricity didn't work here either then... I had thought that a hardware store like this might have had a generator or solar panels, but I suppose not? But, I wonder why? My own apartment was like that, but was there a reason that only electricity seemed to be unusable? There were small lights illuminating the dark hallway. They were stationary flashlights that were set at equal distances apart.

"It looks like there are quite a lot of people after all..."

I detected over ten people alone, within my current range for 'Scout.'

"...Hmm?"

Someone was headed towards me. Two people. I hurriedly used 'Conceal' and 'Presence Block' and hid in the shadows of the products. The people who came were students. It was the leader-like person named Nishino and a quiet-looking student who wore glasses. Neither of them noticed me as they entered the resting room.

I made sure that they were well out of sight before I moved. The entrance had been left wide open, so I made my way to the selling area. This area was very wide and dark inside. I just needed to know the placement of the products and who was where. The combo of 'Scout', 'Presence Block', 'Silent Traversal' and 'Night Vision' really worked best in these kinds of

situations. Momo was also lying in the 'Shadow' and so no one would see her.

I moved slowly, making a mental image of the number of people and the placement of sold goods. As a result, I was able to determine that there were twenty-two people in this home center. Ten students and twelve refugees. All the refugees were gathered in one spot in the selling area. And as if surrounding them, three students brandished weapons and monitored them. The refugees had expressions filled with exhaustion as they slumped on the floor, in their hands, they gripped plastic bottles and food rations. Apparently, the students had given it to them.

Hmm? One of the refugees had stood up and was walking towards the students. Ah, I'm pretty sure it was the old man who had bowed with his head touching the floor at the entrance.

"Hey, hey, could you give me one more? My bottle is empty..."

"No. We already told you that everyone gets one bottle each."

"Bu-but, I haven't eaten anything since this morning...! Please, have mercy and give me just one more bottle! I'm desperate. Help an old man out. Won't you?"

Hey, now. How shameless can you get... Even the other students were glaring at the old man with expressions that said, 'What is this guy even saying?'

"Tsk, I'll go and ask Nishino. You stay here and don't move a muscle."

The boy spat loudly and walked away. I had presumed that he would have lost his cool, but it looks like he was able to control himself. Ahh, seemed like a tough job... It was doubtful that the other two would move from their stations.

Now, I was finished counting the numbers and confirming positions. I would be able to store the supplies later, so I might as well gather information first. I was using the 'Listening' skill to hear the conversation between the old men, but it was unlikely to give me anything important. All they were mumbling were things like, 'We just need to wait until the self-defense force show up.' Or 'This is just a dream, it must be.'

Clearly, if I was going to spy on any one, it should be the students. I made my way back towards the resting room and hid against one of the walls.

There were a lot of boxes and products here which made it perfect for hiding. I put my ear against the wall and activated the 'Listening' skill. The 'Scout' skill had already alerted me that there were three people inside.

Well then, I wonder what they were talking about.

"—Was it really a good idea to take all of them in?"

"Ex-exactly. We are barely making it by ourselves. If we start bringing other people in now..."

These voices, I think it was that punk-like kid from earlier and the quiet one with glasses. Okay, I'll call them Punk and Glasses from now on. It seemed that the two of them were against bringing in the refugees. Well, it was nothing surprising. They would only get in their way.



"...Indeed. But the reality is that we are also lacking in personnel. Shibata, did they believe all the stuff about levels and skills?"

"Well, I did give them a demonstration. But they weren't entirely convinced either. To be frank...even we didn't really believe it until we started gaining levels like we do now. Also..."

"What?"

"Uh...there are some who resist the idea of killing monsters. These guys, they haven't done anything themselves, but they have a lot of one-sided demands...f\*\*k!"

It seemed that the last incident had quite the effect on him. Punk boy slammed a fist to the wall.

"Exactly. Th-that food, we risked our own lives to retrieve it from the supermarket...!"

Glasses boy muttered in agreement.

"...I understand how the two of you feel, but you must bear with it for now. Once they have increased their levels, it will become much easier to acquire food and to scout out other territories."

"But will they obediently do as we order?"

"It shouldn't be a problem. You know my 'skill' right? Also...in the worst case scenario, these guys are 'disposable.' If any monsters appear that we can't handle, then they can act as bait which will give us plenty of time to escape. Didn't I say this before?"

"Ahh...well, yes."

Woah, Nishino. His face was so calm, but clearly, the most heartless things were in his head. Well, perhaps you needed to be that calculating in order to survive. He was also very confident, it seemed. I wonder what kind of jobs or skills he had? It made me wonder.

"But more importantly, now that we've accepted them, it is important to increase our food supplies in a hurry. Once the two who are gone come back, we will have to rethink the rotation."

"Understood." "Yes..."

"In any case, let's prioritize the acquisition of food. Fortunately, if we go to the nearby supermarket, there should still be some preserved food—"

"It's, it's terrible!"

The door swung open and a single student stormed in. Well, I had already detected him with 'Scout' anyway.

"What is it? What happened?"

Nishino did not appear to be in the least bit surprised at the sudden intrusion.

"Hah, ahh...just, just now...the guys who were out returned...hahhh, ahh...! I can't believe it! It's not possible, this can't...!"

"Calm down, what happened, exactly!"

What could it be? Could a powerful monster like a high orc have appeared? However, the answer that came from his mouth was not at all what I had expected.

"The, the inside of the drugstore had been emptied... And it's not only that. All the supermarkets and convenient stores around here have been wiped of food and supplies, completely...!"

"...What, what did you say!?"

All three raised their voices in shock upon hearing this report. ...What?

Could it be, that the culprit behind it all, was me?

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Chapter 30

Source: Chronicles of Chaos

Report

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The World Is Overflowing with Monster, I'm Taking a Liking to This Life 30  
Misunderstanding

I could feel my face becoming tense as I listened to the students' conversation. This was bad, I had gotten carried away. It was just so fun testing out the capabilities of the item box. After all, you could store things by just looking at them. Of course, this would make me get excited.

But, clearly wiping the buildings clean was going too far. It was bound to attract undesirable attention. ...Though, I didn't feel like returning it either.

"No food...you say? Is that really true?"

"Yes... I asked them again and again myself. But they don't appear to be lying. So, so what are you going to do, Nishino? If we don't have food..."

The student who had come to make the report was extremely shaken. Even beyond the wall, I could sense that Glasses and Punk were shaken as well.

Among the group, the only one who remained calm was the leader. Nishino.

"...Ono, how much food supplies do we have left?"

"Eh? Oh...um, hmm, there should have been enough for three days if it was just us...but, we have less now, since we gave some to the others...so..."

"Hey! Stop beating about the bush and just give the answer, idiot!"

"Aah! I, I'm sorry!"

Punk barked towards Glasses as he fumbled incoherently.

"Calm yourself, Shibata. Do you know that you have a bad habit of being quick to shout at people?"

"...S-sorry."

"Ono, take your time. How much food do we have left?"

"...! S-sorry. Um, uh...very, very little...I think. Maybe, one day at the most..."

Everyone fell silent at Glasses' reply.

"Right...I understand. And the refugees do not know this yet?"

"Yes. Of course not."

I was hearing it all though.

"That's good. We will continue to keep them in the dark about this. We won't be able to stop them from revolting if they find out there is little food left. Tell this to the others as well."

"U-understood."

So saying, the student who had made the report, left the room.

"Ahh...things have certainly gone bad..."

"They sure have..."

"Let's organize our thoughts. Looking at the situation, the supplies must have been taken between the end of our third transportation trip and the beginning of the fourth. I suppose that would be around 2 hours. Normally, it should not be possible to wipe the surrounding stores clean in just 2 hours."

"That's true. But then, how could—"

"Yes, it would mean that it is the work of someone with such a 'Skill.' And considering the scale here, this person must be at a very high level."

"Oh, like item boxes and teleportation magic. Those kinds of skills? In web novels, those kinds of skills usually make an appearance."

Yes. Correct. Well done, Glasses. Anyone who loves web novels should know to acquire 'Analysis' and 'Item Box' if you can.

"This person's really done it."

"Damn, who the hell! Stealing from other people!"

Nah, Punk. That line would hit you like a boomerang. It wasn't yours to begin with.

"..."

"What, what is it Nishino? Are you thinking...?"

"No...the timing just seems too good. That something like this would happen just as we started to accept refugees in..."

"Ni-Nishino, are you saying that this person chose this moment deliberately?"

"Ono, we don't even know that it was a single person yet. It could be another group just like us."

"Ah, right..."

Nope, I'm solo.

"Also, it could just be a series of coincidences. The person may still be close by."

"Are we going to go and search?"

"If we can. But...if, for instance, this person 'planned to steal everything from us,' then this could be a bigger mess than we thought."

"What...what do you mean?"

"You don't get it? There would only be one reason to do such a thing. The same reason that we took in the refugees. How much do you think food and daily supplies are worth in this world now? That worth will only rise as time goes on. If they can use it to negotiate with others, there will be many who will do whatever they order."

"Ah, right..."

No, no. That's not what I mean to do. Shit, they really have me wrong now. I hadn't even considered such a thing. I was just having too much fun with testing the item box. I just got carried away. But I couldn't tell them...

"In any case, we can't afford to have any more of our food stolen like this. We need to hurry and secure as much food as we can."

"Are we going to increase our search parameter?"

"It will be risky, but we have no choice. I'd like to send people out as soon as possible, but unfortunately, it's already night time. Exploration at night would be too dangerous with all the monsters roaming the area. We'll rest tonight and begin to move with the rising of the sun. Also, if the culprit's aim is to monopolize all resources, there is a possibility they could come here. We need to be careful."

"Yes." "Understood, Nishino."

Apparently, they had finished talking now. The three of them left the resting room and started back for the main floor. After seeing they were gone, I took the opportunity to sneak back out of the home center.

"Fuu..."

I released a deep sigh without thinking. What should I do? Really. They completely have me wrong...

After that, I entered a building that was a little ways off from the home center and secured a good resting space. I took out some food from the item box and had a late dinner. Momo came out of the shadows too and I fed her some dog food.

Suppose I'll just sleep now... A lot had happened and I was tired. There would be time to think about the supplies in the home center tomorrow. I thought, as I covered myself with a blanket and tried to go to sleep.

Suddenly, 'Scout' detected something.

"...Hmm?"

It had detected monsters. The numbers were...4 in all. They were headed right towards me. No, more correctly it wasn't the building I was hiding it, but in the direction of the home center.

"Momo, let's go."

"Bark!"

I exit the building and head for the home center. Hiding from view and watching, I can see that the monsters looked like wolves. Hmm...they looked like that first monster I had run over and killed. I think it was a shadow wolf? But these were a size smaller than that one. Perhaps they were a weaker version of the shadow wolf. They were surrounding the home center and appeared to be trying to see what was happening inside.

"Wooo...!"

Momo let out a deep howl. Was it because these monsters resembled dogs? She seemed to be very cautious of them.

"The students...don't seem to have noticed yet."

There were two of them guarding the entrance, but they didn't seem to be aware yet. It was already dark, so perhaps they couldn't see them. But

really, did not one of them have any 'Detection type' skills? Well, if they did, then they would have noticed me too.

What should I do... I felt like this was the kind of situation that could get complicated if I acted without thinking it through.

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Chapter 33

Source: Chronicles of Chaos

Report

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Here is the bonus Chapter As Promised

Home Center Showdown

"AWOOOOOOOOOOOOOooo!!!"

The shadow wolf howls. The atmosphere shakes as if pierced by thunder.

Even the other monsters are cowering with fear. Its force was overpowering. But I could still stand it. This was still cute compared to 'that other' roar.

"Momo! It's coming!"

"Bark!"

The 'shadow' emerged from the shadow wolf's feet. It spread out into countless tendrils that lashed out at us like whips. So it was going to use the same skill as Momo, eh? ...Wait, it's the other way around.

"Tsk!"

I take out a drawer from the item box. An instant wall. The tendrils of 'shadow' wrap around the drawer and strangle it until it shatters. The splinters fly into the air. At that moment, the shadow wolf charged forward.

"! -it's so fast, hey!"

Momo and I dodge it by moving in opposite directions I already had an idea about the shadow wolf's speed through 'Scouting,' but it was still much faster than I had imagined. I only barely got out of the way.

"Grrauu!"

But the shadow wolf just turned its body around and started to run in my direction again.

"Wha!?"

It wasn't just fast! This guy's moves were so agile, it wasn't even comparable to a goblin or a lesser wolf! He had the light-footedness typical of canines and there was a springiness to its movements. And now its fangs were approaching me at the speed of a bullet! 'Danger Detection' was sounding its maximum alarm. A wall-no, that won't work. There's no time!

"Awoooooooo!"

My agility had reached three-digits now. I used it to the fullest as I forced my body to twist and move out of the way. The shadow wolf's teeth passed the position I had been a second ago. That was close. Had I evaded the

attack even a split-second later, then my arms would have been chopped off?

“Bark!”

As soon as I was out of the way, Momo controlled my ‘shadow’ and tried to bind the shadow wolf with it.

“Groooarrrr!!”

The wolf seemed to react as if saying ‘Don’t underestimate me!’ and then used its own shadow to counteract Momos. Seriously? At this distance, at this speed, he can stop it?

Still, while it was for an instant, his movement had stopped. It was my chance. And so I unleashed a vending machine on top of the shadow wolf’s head. Now you’ll be pulp!

“-ooooooooOOOOOO!!”

The shadow wolf howled. And then countless tendrils of shadow spewed from its feet. It transformed into something resembling a spiders web as it wrapped around the vending machine and held it in the air.

“Wha...?!”

Hey, is this for real? Do you know how many hundreds of kilograms that machine weighs? It was I and Momo’s trump card that has sent many monsters to their graves. And now it was completely worthless. The trapped vending machine was making eerie noises as the metal began to bend. ... Things would get really bad if I was caught in that ‘shadow.’ I wouldn’t be able to escape. I would just get choked to death.

Damn... He was much stronger than I had anticipated.

Judging by the reaction from ‘Danger Detection,’ I thought it would be just a little stronger than a hobgoblin. I was so wrong.

But, I could still win.

Considering the first one I ran over and how the lesser wolves die, these guys must have low ‘Endurance.’ If I could only land a hit, it should deal a lot of damage at once.

“The problem was, how was I supposed to do that...”

The most troublesome thing was its speed and the ‘shadow.’ I would have to do something about those two if I ever wanted to land a hit. As I was considering all of this, ‘Hostility Detection’ displayed something new.

“Grrrrrr...!” “Woooo.” “Bark!”

What had appeared were, even more, lesser wolves. Five in total. Again, why is it always me that you guys are after! Go over there! Over there! To the home centre!

I glance over to the home centre. The students were still fighting the monsters. I wonder if they’ve noticed me yet? They would have clearly heard the shadow wolf’s howl. Even if they couldn’t see me because of the darkness, they would still know that ‘someone’ was fighting over here—at least, you would think. If possible, I wanted to avoid any actions that would draw any more attention...

“Though, that doesn’t seem very realistic...”

I would die if I didn't fight with everything I had. That was how strong my opponent was. My item box had reached level 10. Well, let's see what it was capable of now.

"AWOOOOOOOOOOOoooo!!"

The shadow wolf howled as it charged for me. The lesser wolves followed behind him. Once again, I unleash a washing machine over their heads.

"Guaarh!!"

But they moved out of the way. One after another, I drop heavyweight electronics onto their heads. Some of them hit the lesser wolves, but none of them reaches the shadow wolf. I was dropping them as close to his head as possible, but he used his 'shadow' to catch them and toss them aside as he ran. ...Maybe they were too small. In that case-.

You have gained EXP points

Oh, I guess that was from killing the lesser wolves. The voice echoes in my head.

"Over here!"

I launched different home appliances at him to slow him down as I ran into the parking lot. Then I immediately put that 'thing' that entered my eyes into my item box. The shadow wolf was fast, but I could somehow maintain a distance between it by tossing items and having Momo's 'shadow' get in its way. Good, I now had acquired enough of them. Now I just needed the right place. Over there looked better than here.

"Momo! Over here!"

"Bark!"

I reunited with Momo and we ran out of the parking lot and into a wide road. The shadow wolf exited the parking lot too and chased after us. It was the main road with a clear view. With nothing to cover us, we could see each other very clearly. Momo and I stopped running and stood our ground in the middle of the road.

"Grrrrr..."

The shadow wolf stopped as well and glared at us as if he was cautious of a trap. Well, too bad. You lost the moment you got lured out here.

"Take this—!"

I launched my new trump card at it. The beloved car that I had been saving for a while—well, it was more of a 'wreck' as it now appeared over the shadow wolf's head.

"?—Groooo!!"

It seemed that the sheer size of this one caught it by surprise because the shadow wolf's 'shadow' tendrils were much more numerous than before. They caught the wrecked car in the air. And the moment it caught it, the wolf tried to escape.

"Not yet!"

However, I unleashed yet another car in the spot where it was trying to escape.

"—!?"

The shadow wolf's face contorted in surprise yet again. A car 'wall' had appeared. Then another, and another. I create a barrier of cars around him. These were all abandoned cars from the parking lot. I already knew that I was able to store 'discarded items,' and so I had picked these up during the fight a moment ago. The question was whether or not the item box would be able to carry all these cars. But thankfully, I had reached level 10 and its capacity had increased.

"Grr... Rrrrr..."

It was blocked by cars on all sides and could no longer escape.

"What's wrong? You can escape if you jump over the cars, can't you?"

I say, but he only stares back bitterly. Oh, that's right. I know. I know that if your skill is similar to Momo's, then you would have a similar weakness as well.

"You can't emit the 'shadow' unless your feet are planted on the ground."

Yes, that was the weakness of the 'shadow.' It couldn't control the 'shadows' unless its feet were on the ground. I'm glad I had asked Momo about this. Well, they only needed one paw to touch the ground, so it wasn't much of an issue during a fight.

But it would not be possible in a moment like this where you were surrounded on all sides. It would not be able to make use of its speed either. Its shadow would disappear the moment that it jumped into the air.

The one doubt I had was whether or not he had the 'Shadow Dive' skill like Momo. And judging by the fact that he had yet to use it, it seemed that he did not have that skill. I wasn't sure if it was something unique to Momo or if it was just this shadow wolf who couldn't use it.

I add yet another car over its head as if creating a lid. Now there was nowhere to run. All it could do now was use its 'shadow' to protect himself. But there would be a limit to the amount of 'shadow' it could put out.

"We got him...Momo."

"Bark!"

Momo's shadow had now captured the shadow wolf. ly, it had been able to use its own shadow to counteract this, but it no longer had the reserve as it now held up a car above its head. Now it was completely wrapped up and unable to move. Perhaps the shadow wolf had realized that it had lost because it let out a vicious howl.

"Goodbye, shadow wolf. You've lost this one."

I add yet another car on top of the one that it was supporting with its shadow. That must have been the limit for it because the shadow dispersed in the next instant. And then the mass above it came down and crushed the shadow wolf.

You have gained EXP points Your EXP has reached a new level Kazuto Kudou's level has gone up from 8 to 9

Phew. I was somehow able to beat it. Well then, it seemed like the students were still fighting over there. I better run away while I can.

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Chapter 35  
Source: Chronicles of Chaos  
Report

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The World Is Overflowing with Monster, I'm Taking a Liking to This Life 35  
35. The Start of the 3rd Day

I wake up as the morning sun enters the windows.

"Ahhh...it's morning already..."

I slept well. Guess I must have been very tired... The thought occurred to me yesterday as well, but I would really, honestly like to get 'Fatigue Resistance.' Would I be able to acquire it if I was tired to the absolute limit? I didn't want to try that.

I look at my watch and see that the time is 6 AM. It had always been a habit for me, so I can't help but get up at this time. But I wasn't quite sure if it was a good or bad thing that I became awake a lot faster now...

"Bark!"

Momo was already up. She always got up early.

"Good morning Momo."

I give her a morning pet and enjoy the texture of her fur. Momo rubs her body against me. Hehe, cutie. Good, now I was completely awake.

"Huh...? Momo, did you get a little bit bigger?"

"Bark?"

Momo tilts her head to the side. But it was unmistakable. She had become a little bigger compared to yesterday. I try picking her up with both arms just to see, and she feels heavier.

"Why all of a sudden...? Maybe, it's an effect of the magic stones?"

Or an effect of leveling up. But I don't think there was a difference yesterday? Maybe the number of magical stones wasn't enough yet? I couldn't think of another explanation...

"Momo, do you sense anything strange with your body? Is there any pain?"

"Baark?"

Momo says that she doesn't feel anything strange at all. If anything, she seems to be full of energy as she runs circles around me. I guess there's no...problem then? Hopefully, that was the case...

"Alright. But if you do feel anything, you tell me quickly, okay? Got it?"

"Bark!"

Momo replies happily.

"Okay, let's eat breakfast then."

I took out some food from the Item Box and we had a light breakfast.

Thanks to the 'Preservation Feature' being added, we wouldn't have to worry about food going bad. Somehow, I was able to taste and enjoy the food more than I did yesterday.

After that, I washed my face and lightly wiped my body. What I really wanted was a bath. I sweated quite a lot. But there was no hot water, so it was impossible. This house used electricity for everything. People shouldn't do that. At least leave something that uses gas. I had no choice but to use a portable gas stove to heat up some water. I lightly washed Momo while I was at it. It was easy because she didn't move around.

"Still, I wonder why electricity is the only thing we can't use...?"

The water and gas were still running, but the electricity has been down from the beginning. Well, small battery-powered electronics work, but everything else was unusable. I haven't tried out the emergency power generator yet. But those things are so loud that I was sure they would attract monsters.

Perhaps the power station just happened to be attacked on the first day. Or there was some other 'reason'... But I couldn't figure it out no matter how much I thought about it. And the power station was much too far to go and check.

"I wonder if the electricity works in neighboring towns?"

Of course, I would have to actually go in order to find that out as well. If only there was news or internet available...

Ah, right. The radio. I have a radio. At least, I think I had one. Why didn't I think of this sooner? I'm so stupid. I take the radio out of the Item Box and switch it on.

"It's no use..."

Nothing but noise emits from the speakers regardless of the channel. Was there also an issue with the radio waves? What did this mean?

"It's no good. I don't have enough information..."

Perhaps I should have joined with another group? No, that in itself would cause all sorts of trouble...

"I will have to eavesdrop like I did yesterday..."

I felt like that was the best choice. In that case, I should probably head over to the home center.

...No, there was a different place I should head to first. I'll go there.

"Okay, Momo. Let's go."

"Bark!"

I finish preparing for the trip and go outside. If my memory is correct, then it shouldn't be too far a walk from here.

Several minutes later—.

"Ah, there it is."

I find the place I was looking for. There is a sign that reads 'under construction.' Abandoned cranes. The metal frame of a half-constructed building.

Yes, I came to a construction site. A new apartment was supposed to have been built here. It was different compared to the home center, but there were plenty of things that could be used as weapons here. A mountain of

gravel, steel pipes, blocks, concrete and heavy machinery. All of them would fit nicely in my Item Box.

"There doesn't seem to be any monsters nearby. Let's just gather everything."

"Bark!"

Several minutes later—. My LV10 Item Box easily contained everything I wanted from the construction site. I even tested a new way of using it as well. And it was a success. I was quite satisfied with everything I had been able to collect, and so we left the construction site behind us.

"Now, let's go to the home center."

We begin to move again. It seemed like there were fewer monsters compared to yesterday... There was no reaction when I used 'Scouting.' The only thing I could sense was people who were hiding in their houses.

Maybe all of the monsters in this area gathered together after that howling last night? They could have also migrated somewhere else. I didn't mind the strong monsters leaving, but it was not a good thing that even the weaker monsters were gone. I wouldn't get any experience. If only there were some weak goblins around...

We were now only a few minutes away from the home center. And here I discovered something strange.

"Huh?"

I couldn't help exclaiming in a dumb voice. I looked at it carefully.

"Are you serious..."

There wasn't anything like that here yesterday. There was a cross section in front of me. And something sat in the center of it.

It was a chest made of wood. It was ornately decorated and there was something like a keyhole in the middle. Well, it was obvious. A mainstay in games. Something everyone has seen at least once.

"That's a...treasure chest?"

Yes. What was sitting there was a treasure chest, no matter how you looked at it. Seriously. I didn't think this world would have something like that...

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Chapter 36

Source: Chronicles of Chaos

Report

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The World Is Overflowing with Monster, I'm Taking a Liking to This Life 36  
35. Even knowing that there is still an irresistible appeal

I stare at the treasure box in the middle of the intersection. It's suspicious... too suspicious. Like, it's clearly going to be a trap, right? Not even a trap, what if it was a monster? One of those mimic things.

But then again, 'Hostility Detection', 'Danger Detection' and 'Scouting' were not picking anything up. But how could it be anything else... If

anything, the fact that they weren't picking anything up was also suspicious. Maybe there was a skill that 'interfered with detection.' I already knew that there was an 'Appraisal Interference' skill, so there could be other similar skills as well.

"But there is also a possibility that it is a real treasure chest..."

I wonder what could be inside, if it was real? Treasure? Magical stones? Or maybe weapons? I couldn't say that I wasn't very curious.

"Maybe I'll test it a little."

I moved to an area that put us out of sight from the cross-section. First, I would try throwing a rock. Bullseye. Nothing happened.

"Momo."

"Bark!"

I had Momo use her 'shadow' to stretch out toward the chest and try opening it. And right when Momo's shadow touched the treasure chest—

"SHHHAAAAAAA!!!"

The treasure chest swung open and a monster that resembled a hermit crab jumped out. Its body was clearly larger than the treasure chest itself. How had it fit in there? What were the laws of physics doing right now?

"Oh well, so it was a monster..."

It wasn't a treasure chest. It was just a mimic... Crap. I regretted getting my hopes up so high.

And just as the mimic showed itself, 'Hostility Detection' and 'Scouting' began to react. So it was using some kind of interference skill. But apparently, the effect was lost once it came out of the box.

"SHHHHHAAAAAAA—AAA-?!"

The mimic then realized that there was no prey in front of it. It made a questioning gesture. The gesture made it seem a little cute. But monsters are still monsters. I would have no mercy. The position of the mimic was right inside the area of effect for my Item Box.

"—Get crushed."

I unleash some heavy machinery that I had swiped from the construction site over the mimic's head. There was a wet sound as it was flattened.

You have received experience points.

The voice in my head announces. I had been able to kill the mimic in one shot. It was surprisingly not much of a threat.

I quickly retrieve the machine. There was now a yellow magic stone where the mimic had once been. When I place it in my Item Box, the description reads 'Magic stone of a Mimic(Small).' As a threat, it hadn't been much different compared to a goblin or a lesser wolf. Well, it was clearly a trap, after all.

However, things could get worse if this meant that there were 'mimics' that turned into other objects other than treasure chests. Ordinary supplies—drawers and garbage buckets. Those would be so much more dangerous. I would have to be more careful in the future.

"I think I will raise the level for 'Detection' type skills next then..."

If I raised 'Scouting' and 'Danger Detection,' maybe I will be able to see through the disguises of mimics. It would probably be more useful for me, compared to 'Physical Strengthening' or "Swordsmanship." I probably should have put more thought into how I allocated my skill points from the beginning. Well, there was no point in regretting over things that had already happened. I would just do better next time.

"Now, let's get going. Momo."

"Bark!"

We started towards the home center once again.

—The scene now changes to the home center.

The home center resting room. Here the students gathered, with Nishino as the head. They were discussing their future plans. There was a map of the town laid out on the table, and there were several places that were marked.

"Well then, Shibata and Ono. I want you two to split up and search the surrounding area. Getting new food supplies is your priority, but I don't want you to do anything foolish either. Got it?"

"Yes." "Yeah, I got it."

The punk-like Shibata and the glasses wearing, weak-looking Ono both replied. Behind them, several other students were standing.

"Also, let's look for other places of refuge. If there is any place that is safer than here, we'll figure out a route and relocate. If there are other refugees there already, we will negotiate with them. ...Our families may even be there. Let's do our best."

Nishino explained as he pointed at the map. All of the routes and territories that had been assigned were logical and something the others were satisfied with. The students nodded.

"Alright, you should set out then. I'm counting on all of you."

"Yes!"

The scouting group replied eagerly and then filed out of the room.

"The rest of you will continue to protect this place. You should also have the refugees help you. Some of them were able to level up after yesterday. I'll leave the rotation up to you. But try not to be too stressed out about it."

"Understood."

The remaining students answered before leaving the room as well. Now the only ones left were Nishino and the female student with the side ponytail.

"They're gone now... Good. Rikka, let's go and help the people who haven't been able to level up yet. Okay?"

"What. Seriously? That sounds incredibly boring to me..."

The girl called Rikka had an undisguised expression of disapproval on her face.

"Don't be like that... You are the strongest out of all of us here. And considering our skills go well together, it makes sense for us to act as a pair. And I explained the reason to you yesterday, didn't I? We need stronger men right now."

"Mmmm, I do understand what you are saying, Nisshi..."

Rikka put her hands behind her head and frowned. Apparently 'Nisshi' was her nickname for Nishino.

"To be honest, I don't think there is much point in helping those old men level up. They will only get in our way. Especially the bald one. He is still talking about how he refuses to kill monsters. It's so lame."

"..."

"In fact, why don't you just murder them and pretend it was an accident? That way we will even get some experience poi--"

"Rikka!"

Rikka jumped a little as Nishino yelled at her. She put a hand to her mouth and looked away apologetically.

"Oh...I'm sorry. Forget I said that..."

"Don't you ever say something like that again. That is something I don't want anyone else to know about. If they did, there will definitely be someone willing to cross that line. It is something I will...never allow."

"...Yes, I know."

Nishino and Rikka left the resting room. There was something tense in their expressions.

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Chapter 37

Source: Chronicles of Chaos

Report

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The World Is Overflowing with Monster, I'm Taking a Liking to This Life 37  
37. Comparing with Others

I arrived at the home center. But first I keep myself hidden and watch.

"There are fewer guards out here compared to yesterday..."

...There were two at the entrance. And one of the guards wasn't a student. He looked kind of old and had different clothing. He was likely a refugee. I wonder if he was one of the people who had fought the monsters alongside the other students. This meant that his level went up, he got some skills, and was now recognized as one of their members.

"I think I'll try to get a little closer..."

'Scouting' had gained a level, so I would be able to tell how many people were inside if I was close enough to the wall. And thanks to 'Presence Block' and 'Silent Movement,' neither of the guards noticed my presence. Just like yesterday, I was easily able to reach the window which I had used to get in.

"...There is hardly anyone in there."

I could only sense 5 to 6 people inside there with 'Scouting.' That was considerably fewer people than yesterday. Had they broadened their scouting range now that they were nearly out of supplies? Nishino was saying something about that yesterday.

Speaking of which, I can't detect Nishino's presence either... Had he gone out too? He didn't really look like the type to go out and explore...

"What should I do..."

This was an incredibly advantageous situation for me. All I would have to do is steal their supplies and run away...

"But after what happened yesterday, they were bound to be more cautious..."

While listening to them talk the other day, it was clear that Nishino was wary of a certain person-me, in fact, who was 'taking their supplies.' And he had suggested that there was a high likelihood that I would appear here again. He had said this in front of the others. The students, specifically. Would it really be smart to walk in under these conditions? There was also a possibility that several of them had gained detection skills after yesterday's fight.

Hmmm, but I came all the way here. I can't leave empty-handed... Though I did gain a lot of items from the construction site, so I wasn't desperate. And the newly acquired 'Preservation Feature' meant that I wouldn't run out of food for a while. There was no reason to make unnecessary risks out of greed...

I could just steal a little so that they wouldn't notice? Like the gardening materials and poles and bricks. There was plenty laying around here. No one would notice if some of them disappeared.

"-kkk...skill-..."

"...Hmm?"

I could hear a voice coming from a short distance away. The words 'skill' and 'job' were clearly audible.

"Was it towards the shop counters?"

I carefully make my way closer against the walls. I could tell that several people were gathered together in a corner near the counters. I make sure that there is no one else around me just in case ...All clear. Then I put my ear to the wall and activated the 'Listening' skill.

"-Well then, let's check it again. All of you, open you status plates. It will come out if you think 'status.'"

"Woah! It really did come out!" "What, are you crazy? ...Oh, it did!?" "This is a strange looking board... But how does it work?"

"Yes, we call them status plates. Your status plates are not visible to other people. But be careful."

...Hmm. Was this a lecture on skill use for those who gained a level? The person who was instructing them sounded like that punk-ish student from yesterday. I swear that there was someone with a similar voice guarding the entrance.

"I will explain each category later. First, look at your level, SP and JP. Do all of you see a 1 displayed by your level?"

The student asks the refugees. There is no answer, which probably meant they were nodding.

"I think that Nishino told you all yesterday, but anyone who kills at least one monster will become level 1. And once that happens, you will be able to see your status. Were you able to hear that voice in your head? Saying 'You have gained experience points.'?"

"Ah, yes... But what does that mean?"

"This is the important part, old man. Underneath that there are categories called SP and JP. These allow you to choose skills and jobs. In short, they allow you to gain the power to fight monsters."

"The...power to fight...?"

"Exactly. You should all have 2 points of SP and 1 point of JP. Am I right?"

"Ah, yes, I have them." "Me too..." "I as well."

"With this, you can choose one job and two skills. Try clicking them. It will display the abilities and jobs that you can acquire."

The student continues. ...Hm? Wait a second. Just 2 SP and 1 JP? But my initial points were 10 SP and 10 JP.

What did this difference mean? The way he just said it, it sounded like there was no difference between individuals, and they all had the same number of initial points. So why did I alone have so much more? The only thing I could think of was...

"—was it because of 'Rapid Development'...?"

Extra experience points(speculation) and an increase of acquired points. If that was the effect of 'Rapid Development' then—.

"What-what one am I supposed to choose?" "Um, mine has different ones, like 'Company Employee', 'Citizen', 'Adventurer', 'Golfer'..." "I, I...there are too many in mine and I can't decide..."

"Umm, alright. You will have to write them down on a paper. And you better not lie about it. Nishino will be back soon, so you should discuss it with him and decide. He will know the best decision in order for us all to survive. In any case, don't choose any skills or jobs until then."

The refugees started to talk with the student about their skills and jobs.

From what I could hear, none of them had any unusual jobs or skills. None of them had an Item Box. Maybe it was an incredibly rare skill?

I had no one to compare myself with until now, but maybe I just happened to be one of the very lucky ones? 'Rapid Development' and 'Item Box. I was able to get these two skills from the beginning.

"...Hmm?"

'Scouting' found something. This presence...It was Nishino and the others. It seems that they had returned.

I was able to get some important information. But it was now time to leave. I moved away and borrowed a few gardening supplies that no one would miss.

Then I left the area before the students caught sight of me.

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Source: Chronicles of Chaos  
Report

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The World Is Overflowing with Monster, I'm Taking a Liking to This Life 38  
38. I will become someone who can properly say 'no,' even when someone glares at me.

I leave the home center and walk through the town.

"Hmmm..."

I consider everything that I had just heard as I walked. Increased SP and JP through 'Rapid Development.' I understood, now that I was able to compare with others. But this was more of a cheat ability than I had expected.

"It was only good luck that I was able to acquire it, but now it makes me really want an explanation on skills..."

Even after you acquired new skills and jobs, there was still no description on the status plate. So you had no choice but to test the skill after acquiring it or speculate based off of the name.

"Perhaps I need the 'Appraisal' skill to see skill descriptions."

'Appraisal.' A skill that analyzes skills. I am reminded of how much I need it.

"I don't even know what the requirements for getting it are... But it seems like it might be an advanced 'Observation' skill."

I had acquired the 'Observation' skill when I got the 'Spy' job. I was currently level 4. If I was able to raise this to level 10, would it increase my chances of getting 'Appraisal'? I could only speculate about all of this, but it was worth trying out.

"I will need to raise my detection-type skills as well as 'Observation'..."

I hadn't thought about it all that much until now, but 'Rapid Development' was a permanent skill. It was different from the other skills. And so it was necessary for me to learn more about it. It seemed that the list of things I needed to do kept increasing.

"Baark?"

Momo asked me if I was okay. Oops. I had gotten so distracted by my thoughts.

"I'm fine Momo. Don't worry."

I kneel down and pat her on the head.

"....Wafoo."

She replied. Which meant, 'if you say so.' I chuckled. She always worried too much. Cutie.

"Uh, what is that...?"

Just as I turned my gaze away from her, a slime caught my eye. It was near a garbage dump towards a wall. And inside of the pile of garbage, were several slimes.

Who would have you'd find them in a place like this? 'Danger Detection' and 'Hostility Detection' had not been triggered, and so I had almost missed them. They didn't seem like they were up to anything. They just moved

around in the same place. No, wait. If you looked closely, they were melting the garbage. These guys just ate anything, huh? In fantasy novels, slimes were usually depicted as omnivores. And in reality, these guys were no exception.

Hmm, what to do. It was a real hassle hunting them... And there wasn't much advantage to doing so at the same time.

"Hm?"

Looking closer, there was one particular slime that had a different color than the rest. The other slimes were all blue, but this one was red. Was it a high ranking slime? I watched them for a while, but the red slime did not seem to be doing anything other than move around in the same area like the others.

"Strange little creatures..."

In a way, they were the most mysterious monsters. Well, there was nothing to do about it now. They seem to be low level, I don't think there is any harm in leaving them alone.

"Ah, right."

Curiosity took a hold of me, and I took out some 'garbage' from my Item Box. It was stuff like plastic containers from finished lunch boxes. I threw them at the slimes.

"..."

The slimes did not respond—no, they started to. They surrounded the garbage and melted it. ...Very slowly.

"Huh..."

I stared at this very interesting sight. It took the slimes about ten minutes to finish eating the garbage. They jiggled a little before resuming their consumption of the remaining garbage.

"They sure eat a lot."

It was like I was looking at huge microorganisms. Hm? What was it? Now the red colored slime was slowly coming towards us. Neither 'Hostility Detection' or 'Danger Detection' were sensing anything. But I still took a few steps back just in case. Momo dropped into a fighting stance.

The Red Slime is looking at you like it wants to join your party. Allow it to join?

The voice echoes in my head.

"What?"

-For a second I wondered if I had heard that wrong.

The Red Slime is looking at you like it wants to join your party. Allow it to join?

The voice echoes in my head once again. No, I hadn't heard it wrong.

Wow. I didn't think such things could happen with monsters. I mean, this meant that slime's had a 'will' of their own. The slime was jiggling and staring at me...or I thought that it was. Perhaps it was because I fed them?

"Hmm..."

But... I wasn't sure about this one. People would often befriend slimes in web novels. But in real life... I look at the red slime near the garbage pile and think. It didn't seem to be threatening to me, but it looked like there were no merits to it either.. If anything, considering my specialized skills, wouldn't it actually be in the way? 'Concealment' and 'Presence Block' only affect me. And Momo could at least hide in shadows. Also, the slime was slow, I would have to carry it to move around. And it didn't seem like it would be useful in combat. Having it around would just be a burden.

I choose 'No' inside of my head.

You have rejected its application

"..."

I don't know if it was just me, but it looked like the red slime shuddered with sorrow. But it was probably just me. It was. It must be.

"...Let's go, Momo. We'll search for other monsters."

"...Bark."

Yes, I wasn't wrong. I couldn't be wrong. Just as I begin to walk out again, my stomach rumbles.

"...Now that I think of it, it's almost lunchtime."

I look at my watch and see that it is past twelve.

"Let's take a break then, Momo."

"Bark."

We search for a building that we can rest in. ...That looks like a good place. There was a multi-story apartment close by. I turned my back to the jiggly slime and headed towards the building with Momo.

At the same time, on the roof of a certain apartment building—

"...As I thought, there are fewer and fewer monsters within this visible perimeter."

'She' says as she looks at the town through a scope. It was the third day after the monsters had appeared. She had not taken a single step outside of the apartment, instead, she stayed here and sniped. Due to this, her level had gone up and she received more than enough points.

However, it seemed that this strategy had reached its limits. Because there were now much fewer monsters who were within range of her shooting.

"Maybe I should finally leave..."

Considering her own job and skills, it would be better for her to stay.

However, it was quite clear that she had reached her limits here.

"I could use my points to strengthen my skills and status. Then I could find another good building and hole up there..."

She could find another tall apartment building that fit the requirements of her job, and make it her new base.

"I wish I had someone to work with. ...I do wonder if that guy and his dog are still alive..."

She recalled the guy and his shiba that had come here yesterday. He had an interesting skill. But ultimately, she had walked away without being able to talk to him.

“...Well, he seemed rather scummy. He’s probably alive.”

No, maybe not scum. But he did play dirty. That is how she felt after seeing him fight at the supermarket and his reactions here. Why did she think that? Because she was the same. She didn’t want to die. She wanted to live. And so she would kill monsters, raise her level, and plan ways to ensure her safety. That being said. She thinks...

“That dog was really cute...”

It always stuck close to him and wagged its tail. It was so adorable. She wanted to pet its soft fur. She was a dog person, not a cat person. And she had a special fondness for shiba dogs. If this apartment hadn’t banned keeping pets, she would probably have had a cute dog like that as well. Her cheeks became slightly flushed. She was like a love-struck maiden.

“...I want to meet that dog again.”

She could barely remember the face of the guy. On the other hand, Momo’s appearance was beautified by about 200 times. Shy people generally didn’t remember people’s faces.

“-‘Map.’”

She mumbled, and the status plate transformed. It turned into a three-dimensional recreation of the town.

“...Yes, this one looks good.”

It was a tall apartment building that was a small distance away from the home center. This place would fit the requirements of her job. She would have to gather new furniture and food. But that was a compromise she had to make.

“Alright, I should go then.”

She leaned the now familiar rifle on her shoulder and stood up. And so the girl, Natsu Ichinose, went out into the town to look for her new hunting spot. And in a corner of her heart, she had a small hope that she would see that shiba again.

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Chapter 39

Source: Chronicles of Chaos

Report

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The World Is Overflowing with Monster, I’m Taking a Liking to This Life 39  
39. A Brief Respite

I entered the apartment building.

While there were only a few, I could definitely detect that there were residents.

It seemed that some people were holing up in here.

Though, they were only on the upper floor.

I didn’t think I needed to worry about them.

I just helped myself to a random room that was open.

The door wasn't locked, and the interior was a mess.  
There were marks on the floor and furniture as if they had been slashed.  
And the windows were broken.  
It was probably the work of goblins.  
The first thing I do is put all of the furniture and glass that was on the floor into my Item Box.  
Now there was some free space.  
"Good, let's eat lunch now."  
"Bark!"  
Momo's replies always seemed a lot happier when it was time to eat.  
Her tail would wag uncontrollably when I brought out her favorite dog food.  
"Alright then, let's try this one today."  
I take out some especially cheap dog food.  
"Bar- ...kuuuunnn..."  
Momo suddenly looked very crestfallen.  
Even her tail had gone limp.  
Really, she had expensive tastes. Her palate had become very refined recently.  
For someone so stubborn over food...  
"-just kidding. Here you go."  
I take out one that was more expensive than the usual.  
"! -Bark! Bark! Bark!"  
Momo becomes overjoyed again when she sees it.  
Her tail began to wag furiously as she pawed at my legs. Give it to me.  
Hurry up and give it to me!  
Hey, stop that. I can't move if you stick so closely to me.  
Momo really was impossible sometimes.  
We don't have a lot of this, but this is special, okay. Really now.  
"Hmm, now what should I eat..."  
I could just take some random cup noodles from the Item Box...  
Ahhh, but I am also quite tired of premade meals now.  
I think I will make something.  
I move to the kitchen.  
The stove...seems to be usable.  
The water was running as well.  
I want to eat noodles. Some yakisoba would be great.  
I roughly chop up the vegetables and pork I got from the supermarket and fry them together.  
Then I dump the noodles inside. Also some tempura bits.  
Some powdered sauce and Chinese stock powder are also added as I continue to fry it.  
After that, I sprinkle some white sesame seeds and bonito flakes and the dish is ready.  
It's easy to make, but it tastes so good.  
Great, all done.

"Okay, let's eat!"

"Bark!"

I slurp up the noodles.

Yes, it was good.

I liked this somewhat cheap flavor.

The firmness of the cabbage and bean sprouts. Also, the tempura bits went really well with the sauce.

This is also great with a little pepper.

Oolong tea is the perfect drink to go with it.

It really suits meals with a strong taste.

Momo must have been quite hungry as well because she was eating in large bites.

Hey, now! You'll choke if you eat too fast.

I thought as I continued to eat my food.

Hahhh... That was delicious.

Now that I was done, I lie on the floor.

The sunlight that comes in through the broken window is very comfortable.

It makes me sleepy.

"Wafu..."

Hey, Momo.

You shouldn't lie on people's stomachs.

Ah, fine then.

I enjoy the softness of her fur.

"..."

...What was this? This feeling of safety I had.

It was the feeling of a normal day among abnormal days filled with monsters.

It reminds me of how grateful we should all be for a normal life.

Well, except being a corporate slave. No thanks.

"Normally, I wouldn't even be able to eat something like this..."

Currently, there was no new food coming in. Unless you had an Item Box with a preserving feature like me, you would have to eat all of your perishable foods quickly.

It was now the middle of May.

I already retrieved most of the food in this area, but the raw produce in supermarkets in other regions would start rotting right about now.

That's what it was like. And even if you tried to save your stock of food, it was likely that you would eventually have to eat tasteless hardtack and water.

Though none of this applied to me.

I had already acquired more than enough food, and it was all stored inside of my Item Box, which now had a 'Preservation Feature.'

The food that I kept would not go bad or be ruined.

Apparently, this 'Preservation Feature' allowed you to maintain the exact state of the food when you put it in.

For instance, if you put hot water into a bowl of instant noodles and put it inside the box and waited a long time before taking it out again.

It will come out in the exact same state, without being soggy or having cooled off.

If anything, it was more of a 'Time Stop' than a 'Preservation Feature.'

It was quite the cheat. Good god.

I didn't know how such a thing could work, but in any case, my problem with regards to food was solved.

And if I somehow ran out of food, I could always go fishing or grow vegetables from seeds I guess. But that wouldn't happen for a long time.

Also, while not at the same pace as yesterday, I did intend on continuing to collect more food.

It wouldn't hurt to have more stocked up, I wouldn't want them to be eaten by monsters.

And as Nishino said before, food will be important for trading in the future.

...Well, I doubt anyone had something I would trade for.

The Item Box was all I needed.

The only thing that could make it even better would be if you could put 'something that was still moving' inside of it...

As useful as this Item Box was, it couldn't do everything.

There were things that could not be placed inside.

Such as a 'living creature.'

It wasn't possible when I tried it.

I didn't test it on Momo, okay?

I found some crow that was resting on a telephone wire. But it didn't work.

Plants, seeds, branches, and soil were fine.

I suppose it depended on what I or the voice in my head considered to be living.

I also tried 'something that was moving.'

But these were also not able to be stored.

Apparently, objects needed to be still in order to be put inside.

If only I could, it would make me incredibly strong.

I could store something as it was falling, adjust the position and unleash it.

It could be a frighteningly large bullet.

Like Real Gate Oblivion.

It made me think of a certain sparkly spirit.

I wish I could do that...

There weren't any additional features that could alter what you could store.

There was no point in whining over something that didn't exist. But that move was something that any guy would want to do.

Hopefully, I would be able to do it one day.

"Ah, right. Momo, want to eat some magic stones?"

"Bark!"

It was the one I got from the mimic, plus some others that I picked up on the way here.

I give these to Momo.

At first, Momo ate them happily.

But then...

"...kkuu..."

"Hm? What is it, Momo?"

Momo was looking at the last one— 'Mimic Magic Stone(Small)'. Was she not going to eat it? But then she put it into her mouth."

"..."

And then she moved her gaze towards the window.

And-through the crack in the broken glass, she tossed the magic stone outside.

"Ah! What are you doing, Momo!"

There is no need to throw it away just because you won't eat it.

"Bark."

But it seemed like Momo was saying, 'it's fine like this.'

What's fine?... I don't understand it at all.

Oh, well.

I could retrieve it when we go out again.

I wished we could rest a little longer, but it was almost time to head out.

I got ready and retrieved everything that was in the room.

"Okay, let's go. Momo."

"Bark!"

Now, off we go.

I open the door.

"Hmm...?"

In the next instant, 'It' entered my vision.

In the corner of the hallway. The thing that was jiggling there was—.

"...You, did you chase me all the way here...?"

As I asked this, the red slime shook in a way that made it look like it was very pleased.

Liked it? Take a second to support Asta Dark on Patreon!

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Chapter 40

Source: Chronicles of Chaos

Report

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I look at the quivering red slime at my feet. It was looking back at me with a look of expectation. Though, it didn't exactly have any eyes.

But it seems that this little guy really wants to be friends with me. It's hard for me to admit this myself, but what about me was even appealing? Was this slime blind or something? Oh, right. He didn't have eyes. I scratch my head irritably.

"...I said it before, but I don't have any intention of having you join...hmm?"



I noticed something while I was talking. The red slime's body. Aside from the core, which was the size of a pickled plum, there was 'something else' floating inside of it.

"Is that...a magic stone?"

It looked like a brown magic stone. Somehow, it seemed familiar. Could it be...

"That, is it the magic stone that I was carrying?"

The slime jiggled when I asked this. I think it was saying that I was correct. This guy...

"Give it back, that was supposed to be for Momo—"

"Bark!"

Just as my hand reaches out towards the slime, Momo jumped in between us.

"...Momo?"

"Bark! Bark!"

Momo barked at me as if to protect the slime. Huh, Momo? What happened...? Did I do something to make her upset? Damn, it was making me want to cry...

"B-bark!"

Seeing me upset, Momo frantically tells me that I misunderstood her. Then she lightly puts a paw on top of the slime and looks at me. The slime shuddered like pudding. It was kind of cute.

"Momo... Do you want this slime to join us?"

"Bark."

Momo nodded. Apparently, Momo wanted me to accept the slime. I mean, wait a minute...

"Hey, Momo. Did you throw the magic stone out of the window in order to give it to this guy?"

"Bark."

Momo nodded again. I knew it. Momo had acted strangely while we were eating earlier. Especially because she really liked those stones. So that was the meaning behind it all.

Momo had realized that the slime was right outside. And she had some motive in offering the slime the stone.

Motive... The only thing I could think of was to strengthen it, or give it a 'skill.' Just as Momo had eaten the shadow wolf's stone and got the 'shadow' skill, the slime may have... I looked towards the slime, and it seemed to have just finished digesting the mimic stone.

"Bark."

"...(shaking)"

Momo howled towards the slime. And then the slime shuddered, and its body 'transformed.'

"Oh, ohhh..."

I couldn't help but exclaim. The slime's body slowly changed, and it transformed into an empty plastic container. Hey, that was the garbage I gave to it to eat.

"Transformation...no, mimicking skill maybe..."

That was amazing. You could not tell the difference by looking at it. I even tried touching it, but it felt the same. However, the weight was different. Likely, it was the same weight as the slime. And just like with the mimic, it was invisible to 'Scouting.' This was an amazing skill.

"Bark."

Momo howled again, and the slime returned to its normal form. And now that it was back to normal, both the slime and Momo looked at me with expectant expressions.

...So, was this a way for the slime to make its case? Like, look at what I can do!

"...Momo, did you know about this? That it would get the mimicking skill if it ate the mimic stone?"

"...Bark..."

Probably, I at least had an idea about it. She seemed to say. Was it an instinct that animals had? Still, it was amazing that she realized this.

The red slime is looking at you like it wants to join your party. Allow it to join?

The voice echoes in my head again. Momo and the slime look at me. And I sigh deeply.

"Ahh...alright, Momo. You win."

A slime with mimicking skills. With this, it would no longer get in the way of my skills. Even more, it was immune to physical attacks, so it was a good addition to my fighting force.

But more than anything...Momo had given her opinion for the first time. And so I had no choice but to believe. Both her and the slime.

This time, I select 'yes' inside of my head.

The red slime has joined your party You have reached the requirements You can now acquire the job 'Monster User' The job 'Beast User' has been integrated into 'Monster user' If you select the job 'Monster User', you will start from LV2

Oh, a new job has been added. 'Monster user' huh... Judging by the voice in my head, it was like an advanced version of Beast User. I was curious about what skills I could get from it, but I would have to wait until I could get a third job.

"...(shaking)"

Perhaps the slime was overjoyed at being accepted because it was now shaking uncontrollably. Momo was even petting the slime as if to say, 'good for you.' Bark-bark. Jiggling. Pet-pet. ...What the-it was so cute.

I check my status. The party member section at the way bottom now showed the slime. Red slime LV5, it says. So, monsters really did have levels

then... Unlike Momo, it did not display a name. But that would be inconvenient if I ever had to call it...

"Hey, red slime. What do you think about getting a name?"

The slime immediately responded to this question. Apparently, it wanted me to do just that.

"Hmm... Okay, how about 'Aka'?"

Aka, the red slime. I had very straightforward sensibilities when it came to names. However, the red slime seemed to like it. Its body shook with pleasure. Oh, it was stretching itself like mochi.

I checked my status and saw that the name had been added.

Momo Shiba dog LV9

Aka Red slime LV5

Momo's level had gone up. She was very close to reaching level 10.

"Alright, let's go then."

"Bark!" "...(shaking)"

And so Aka, the red slime joined our party. With our new friend with us, we left the apartment building.

In another location—

"Ahhhhhh! Shi-Shibata! He-help.....Aghhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!"

Blood splattered, and another one fell to the floor. Shibata looked at this in shock.

He didn't understand. What was happening? How did things turn out like this?

They had to spread out further in order to search for food. And so they had come out here. Things had been going well up until now. All the monsters that appeared were lone goblins or zombies. They were nothing to them, now that their levels had been raised.

"Let's go on a little further."

Who was it that had said that? But no one disagreed. They had become too confident after killing monsters, gaining levels and skills. They could do it. They could now take on even stronger monsters. They would collect lots of food supplies and surprise everyone. This was what they thought, as they spread out even further, and came all the way out here.

However, their powerful advance came to a sudden end. They had arrived at a giant shopping mall. And here they encountered a 'monster' that defied their wildest imaginations.

"...Wha-what is that, that thing...!"

Shibata, the punkish student was shaking as he hid behind some nearby bushes.

"Gaaaahhh!!!"

He heard the scream of another of his companions. Should he go and help? No, it was no use. He could not fight this enemy. It was on another level.

"Ha...ha..ah..ah...! Da-damn it!"

He breathed quietly and finally came to a decision.

“Hey, hey! Shibata!? Where are you going!? We, we need to go and help them—AGHHH!!!”

Ignoring the cries of his friend, Shibata ran away. He had chosen to ‘run.’ While the others were distracted, he would make as much distance from them as possible.

(I’m sorry...everyone, I’m sorry...!)

He repented in his heart over abandoning his friends. And yet, his legs did not stop.

“...I, I need to go and tell Nishino. Hurry...I must hurry...!”

Someone...someone had to survive and tell him. Tell him about the monster. The others had to know about it. He shuddered as he ran, and all the while, the screaming of the monster echoed in his ears.

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## Chapter 41

Source: Chronicles of Chaos

Report

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The World Is Overflowing with Monster, I’m Taking a Liking to This Life 41  
Slow Grind

With Momo and Aka with me, I started to scout out the town once again. Well, to be exact, Aka was not walking. I was ‘wearing’ it in a way.

“This doesn’t feel too weird...”

I say as I feel the jacked that Aka had turned into. Its texture and comfortableness were no different than any other clothing. If anything, it might have been more comfortable than most clothes. As for weight, well, it was a little heavier than what was usual, but it was no problem for me now that my stats had gone up. It was an amazing skill.

“...(shaking)”

“Ah, sorry, Aka. Did that tickle?”

Aka shuddered as I rubbed at the material with my fingers. Apparently, I wasn’t supposed to touch it too much. But wearing it was fine. That was a little confusing to understand...

I had done some checking in regards to Aka’s mimicking skill, and it seemed that it could mimic anything that it has ever eaten. As a test, I fed it utensils, garbage, and clothing from the item box. And Aka mimicked them all without any problems. However, it seemed that the things could not be too small or too big. They had to be somewhat in line with its original size. And so I had it mimic the clothes that I wear. Because Aka’s usual speed for movement was much too slow. This was also easier than carrying it, and since it was not recognized by ‘Scouting’ and ‘Hostility Detection’, it would not interfere with my skills.

But more than anything, the clothes that Aka mimicked were durable and could also double as a bullet-proof vest. It was not easily ripped and was

strong against impact. Not that I tested it too much, but I thought that it was probably enough to stop a normal bullet. Well, the 'force' of it would still be felt, though. Still, it would be a great help.

Thanks to Aka, my defensive capabilities had skyrocketed. Momo had been right about this. I'm glad I accepted it.

Additionally, it could only mimic 'objects' like tools and clothes. It appeared that it could not turn into life forms like Momo. It was still impressive, though. Maybe it would be able to turn into weapons once it leveled up. I was getting excited just thinking about it.

Well then, time to look for some supplies and monsters... I wanted to look into Aka's skills a little more, but raising our levels was also important. Plus, I would be able to see how Aka works during battles.

Oh, 'Scouting' was detecting something now. It seemed like...goblins. They were few in number, so I might as well hunt them.

The goblins were chilling in a park. There were seven in all... And not a hobgoblin in sight. Momo used 'shadow' and got as close to them as possible. Then, when they were all within the area of effect, she captured them all at once with the shadow.

"Gi...Giii?" "Gigi..gi?!" "Gigya..." "Guguiiii...!"

The goblins frantically tried to escape, but it was no use. Perhaps it was because Momo had gained a level, but her shadow abilities were becoming stronger. Up until now, she had not been able to capture so many goblins, but now it was easy for her. And her power to strangle them had also increased.

I walked up to the captured goblins and killed them with a kitchen knife. I could have crushed them with the item box, but I would use a knife this time. And I tried as best as I could do it with one cut. It wasn't precise, but I had an idea of where to hit. I wonder if it was a result of 'Vitals Strike.' If I kept using my skills like this, 'Swordsmanship' and 'Vitals Strike' would also become higher. And now that my item box was maxed, I really wanted to raise my other skills as well. It would save some SP as well.

You have gained EXP points

After killing the seven goblins, I collect the stones. I give one to Momo and Aka each and we quickly move on.

By the way, it is necessary for Aka to deactivate 'mimicking' when it eats. And so I have to carefully make sure that no people or monsters are around when I feed it. But I have to say, there was something surreal about watching the stone dissolve inside of the slime, no matter how many times I see it.

After that, we continued to search for easy prey and killed them. Safety was the most important thing. There was no need to take any risks on this adventure. "Maybe I can go further?" "Just a little more..." I did have such feelings, but I knew that my life hung in the balance. And surviving was my biggest priority.

After that, we killed several more zombies and goblins, and my level went up. Great. I do a mental fist pump.

I already knew where to allot the points, so everything went smoothly. JP was used to bring 'Assassin' up to LV7. The remaining 3 points would be saved for now.

As for skills, I brought up 'Observation' to LV6, 'Danger Detection' to LV6, and 'Hostility Detection' to LV5. The remaining point would be saved. As I thought, you needed to use more points for each skill once your level went up. I would have to try and save some points by becoming more proficient in battle.

Speaking of which, we were now quite a ways away from the shopping center. Location-wise, I think the home center would be right between us. Well, it was still too early to relax. Even if 'Danger Detection' was not sensing anything, it didn't mean that there weren't any monsters of the high orc class lurking around here. There was also a possibility of monsters disguising themselves like the mimic had.

"I should probably just choose a destination already..."

The next town? The city? Or I could hole up in the mountains... There was no guarantee that any of those locations would be safer. But I wouldn't know unless I checked them out. The closest of possible locations was the city. But I would have to go near the shopping mall to reach it. That was one thing I wanted to avoid.

So that left the next town or the mountains. But then again, I wanted to raise my level here as much as possible first. After all, I could well end up encountering a monster that was even stronger than a high orc if I left this place. So in a way, being here and being able to hunt easy monsters was a kind of comfortable situation. In any case, I was able to gain a level today.

"Alright, let's do a little more then."

"Bark!" "...(shaking)"

I give the newly acquired magic stones to Momo and Aka. Both of them received their stones happily.

However, Momo seemed to change the moment she swallowed hers.

"...Hm? What is it? Momo?"

"...Hgggguuu."

Momo did not react when I talked to her. She only moaned and shivered. What, what happened? Momo? When I approached her, her 'shadow' shot out from her feet.

"What!?"

It transformed into a cocoon that enveloped Momo's body. Wh-what...was happening to her?

Right after she ate the stone... The only thing I could think of was—could it be!

I opened up the status plate and checked the category on the bottom.

"I knew it..."

It displayed 'Momo Shiba dog LV10'. Then that would mean that...

Both Aka and I stared at Momo, who was wrapped in shadow.  
A few seconds later, the cocoon vanished. And Momo appeared, looking like —.

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## Chapter 42

Source: Chronicles of Chaos

### Report

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The World Is Overflowing with Monster, I'm Taking a Liking to This Life 42  
Evolution

"Bark!"

Momo jumped energetically out from within the shadows. Ohh, Momo! What would she look like—uh, what? ...She looked the same?

"...Momo?"

"Bark?"

I looked at her carefully. She looked exactly the same as before she had been covered by the shadows. Huh? What did this mean? I thought she had reached the highest level and was going to 'evolve'...?

No, now that I look again, she seems more 'impressive'? ...It's probably just me. She was the same old cute Momo. I pet her. Yeah, it was the same soft fur. Momo closed her eyes comfortably.

"Momo, is anything different with you? Do you feel pain, is anything strange?"

"Bark!"

Momo said it was all good. And she shook her tail happily. It seemed like there was nothing wrong...

"Hmmm..."

Oh, I know. I could just open the status plate and check. And so I opened it and checked the party member tab.

Momo Assassin Dog LV1

It read. ...Assassin Dog? That's a bit...intimidating for a name. But I guess since there were police dogs and guide dogs...it wasn't too weird? No, it was weird alright.

Well, considering our fighting style, it did make sense. We used 'shadow' to rob enemies of vision and freedom of movement. And then we approach them and slit their throats. Yah, it was assassination alright.

It wasn't surprising that she would evolve like this. No...but, was this really evolution? If anything, it seemed more like a slightly advanced version of her previous job. I had just assumed that she would evolve into something like that shadow wolf. I had imagined that Momo would come out looking like a monster. But I was ultimately glad that she didn't change. We could continue to move around together like we always had. And she was so cute. That was the most important thing. The most important thing.

"But still..."

I think, as I watch Momo. Was it a bit much for both owner and dog to be 'Assassin' and 'Assassin Dog'...? Was it too dark? I was 100% sure that other people would take this very wrongly.

Yes. I would definitely have to hide this fact from others. It would have all kinds of horrible consequences if word got out. And I doubted that I would be able to make a satisfying explanation.

In short, we would just continue as we always had.

Yes, that is good. ...Was I, slowly walking down the road of working solo? Was it just me?

"Bark?" "...(shaking)"

Oh, I was spacing out there. Momo and our new friend were looking at me worriedly. Sorry. Sorry. I'm fine. Yes, that's right. I have Momo and Aka with me. I'm not alone...I think.

And anyway, I didn't feel like getting involved with others at this point. I had wanted a partner with ranged attacks, but it wasn't really important. I wasn't particularly dying for company.

I wanted to maintain a business-like relationship with others. There had to be merits for both of us, and we would not get too involved with each other. That was the best kind of relationship. Well, reality wasn't always so convenient...

"Let's just continue to move for now..."

I wanted to get a better look at Momo's skills and abilities after evolving. But it might attract attention if we did that here. And so I was cautious of my surroundings as we left this place behind us.

After that, I chose a random house that had been abandoned and looked further into Momo's skills. I was not so stupid as to find out what they were during an actual fight. I needed to learn everything in advance.

And through this, I learned that Momo had gained the same skills that I had.

Skills like 'Presence Block', 'Silent Movement.' Skills that helped you find the enemy's weakness. Even her skill of controlling 'shadows' had become more powerful. The area of effect had increased, as did the binding power of the shadow, and even her attack power. And her physical abilities had gone up as well. I think that she was probably equal or even above the shadow wolf that we fought. No, since she was much small, and could move faster, she far surpassed the shadow wolf. In short, Momo was a much stronger version of her past self.

Now that this inspection was finished, it was time to do some leveling along with testing.

"Oh, perfect timing..."

'Scouting' detected something. It was several goblins. And there was a hobgoblin too. They may just be the perfect enemies to try Momo's abilities on.

"Let's go, Momo and Aka."



“Bark!” “...(shaking)”

We moved to where the goblins were. They still had not noticed us yet. Right when we were as close as we could get, I sent Momo the signal. Momo nodded and unleashed her ‘shadow,’ capturing all of the goblins. The speed at which she had put out the shadow and wrapped around them... It was so much faster than before.

We successfully disabled the goblins in no time. The binding power of the upgraded shadow power was so strong, that not even the hobgoblin could not escape it. They frantically tried to resist, but there was no hope of breaking the shadow.

“Bark!”

But it didn’t just end there. The binding power of Momo’s shadow increased, and it squeezed the goblins to death right then and there. The goblins die as their bodies and necks twisted and turned in odd directions. The magic stones rolled onto the ground. Wow. Normal goblins were no match for Momo at this point.

The only one left was the hobgoblin, as so I dealt the finishing blow. Goblins and hobgoblins had the same weak point. The same weakness. I quickly stabbed and twisted. The hobgoblin died immediately.

You have gained EXP points Your EXP points have reached a new level  
Kazuto Kudou’s LV has gone up from 11 to 12

The voice announces inside my head. It was quite different from when I had been fighting at the supermarket yesterday.

I could feel just how strong I had become. But I wouldn’t get too cocky. If anything, seeing my own level go up made it even more obvious how different in power I was from ‘it.’

–I still had a long ways to go.

That’s what I currently felt. Also, there was a sense of agitation that I felt. It would probably be best to leave this town as soon as I gained a few more levels.

At the same time, at the shopping mall–.

The monster was bored. It wasn’t fun here. Nothing held any interest for him.

He thought as he crushed the corpses on the ground with his feet. When would some prey appear? Prey that could blow away this boredom that he felt?

No matter how long he waited, the only people that would arrive were small fry that offered no challenge. They would quiver with fear by just seeing him, freeze or run away like the foolish cowards that they were.

His wish was not to trample over enemies. It was to fight. Fighting would fulfill his instincts. It was a holy ritual that gave meaning to life. He needed an opponent worthy of him. But when would such a person arrive?

He had had high expectations for the people who had come through the sky, but they had disappointed him. Those who had just been here turned out to be nothing more than worthless beings.

He was becoming very irritated by this, and his fists pounded into the earth. His brothers cowered. He did not care. He was disappointed in them as well, for being so weak.

Ahh, it was no use. He could wait no longer. He had reached the limits of his patience.

If no one would come to him, then he would go searching. He would find prey, an enemy who could satisfy this hunger he felt.

He roared. The sound of it shook the earth and tore through the air.

Then he moved.

Now—the time to lie down and rest had come to an end.

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Chapter 43

Source: Chronicles of Chaos

Report

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The World Is Overflowing with Monster, I'm Taking a Liking to This Life 43  
Sniper

I decided to quickly finish allotting status points after my level up. This time I would also raise the 'Assassin' job. I took it up to LV8 and kept the other 5 points. If things went smoothly, it would reach LV10 after I leveled up two more times. I was pretty sure that I would then be able to get to the next level of that job. But what came after 'Assassin'? ...It did not sound pretty. Well, we would just have to wait and see.

, I raised 'Danger Detection' to LV8, and 'Hostility Detection' to LV6. That was all of the points used up.

I was using these skills, and yet my proficiency wasn't going up all that much. You would think that 'Swordsmanship' or 'Vitals Strike' would go up already. I guess I had no choice but to continue fighting monsters little by little.

Now, we should get moving. Ah, come to think of it, there was a store somewhere around here. I might as well help myself to some supplies while we're here.

-We walked for several minutes. And then we arrived at the store. 'Scout' caught something. It wasn't a monster. It was a human. Someone had beaten us here.

I hide close by and take a peek. It was the students that were inside the store. That looks like...Nishino's group. There were four people in all. And one of them was the glasses boy. They were happily shoving food into rucksacks and shopping carts. It must have been a while since they last found some food. They seemed incredibly happy.

"Woah, there is so much food here." "Aha! The coke is so good! Kind of warm, though. Hahahaha!" "Hey, let's eat some potatoes, we can't carry all of this anyway." "Yo-you guys... Stop eating, we should hurry up and get out

of here..." "Eh? Ono, who do you think you are? You can't order us around" "Yeah. Nishino ain't watching us now. What's the problem with us getting a little bonus? Oh, by the way, I'll kill you if you tell him. Ahahahaha!" "Hey, ouch. Stop, stop hitting me...!" "I just touched you. You always take everything so seriously." "Yeah, yeah. Hey, Ono, grab the potatoes."

Ugh... It was a typical scene of a bully picking on some kid. Poor glasses boy. Not that I was going to help him. He was being ordered around by the others as he silently put the food in the carts.

However, was putting all that food in shopping carts a good idea? Aren't those things super loud when you push them? I feel like there was a strong likelihood of monsters attacking them on the way...

Well, it was none of my business. I guess I'll just wait and watch for a while. They would probably leave in a few minutes anyway. And then I will be able to collect some supplies as well.

And so I waited for a few minutes. They finally finished packing their things and were just about to leave, when 'Scout' detected something.

"Hmm...?"

There was something nearby...and it wasn't human. It was a monster. I got up and used 'Telescope' to look. What I found were two lesser wolves. They were slowly making their way here.

It just had to be lesser wolves, huh? Was it me again? Would they come towards me? I wondered, but it looked like I was wrong. The lesser wolves were targeting the students inside of the store. They didn't even look in my direction as they headed for them.

"He-hey! Look over there!" "Are you serious...it's monsters." "Aren't those the ones we fought yesterday?"

Glasses boy finally realized that the lesser wolves were approaching. He seemed to be panicking. Did none of them have a skill like 'Scout'? It was impressive that they even thought of exploring without it. Also, a monster attack seemed like a reasonable expectation, and yet here they were panicking. Nishino, looks like you may have picked the wrong crew?

"E-everyone, what are you doing! Let's run away!"

While the other students all brandished their weapons, glasses boy alone cried a different tune. He shouldered a bag that was full of food and shouted at them to run away with him.

"What? Ono, are you scared? There are only two of them. It should be easy!" "Exactly! We gained a level yesterday too. There's no way we will lose." "Bu-but, they might call more of their friends like they did yesterday! We-we won't be able to fight them if that happens..."

Glasses boy was really wary of that possibility it seemed. And he was right. It had even been a huge pain for me when that had happened. Especially because they started to target me for some strange reason. However, these other students didn't seem to agree.

"Hah! Then we just need to kill them before they can call more of their friends!" "Exactly! This is a good chance to raise our level! We don't want

that stupid girl, Rikka to act all high and mighty forever!”  
“RAAAAWGHHH!! DIEE!!”

They shouted as they rushed towards the lesser wolves. It was just a matter of killing them before more arrived. Woah... what meatheads.

I mean, that wouldn't even work. Did they have any grasp on reality? After experiencing such hell the other day, how can they say that? Or had they gained enough levels to be able to justify acting like this?

“AGHHHHH!!! DIEEEEEEE!!” “GRRRR!!”

The battle between the students and the lesser wolves began. It was three against two as Glasses was not participating. They at least had the upper-hand in terms of numbers, so maybe they would succeed in killing the lesser wolves in seconds...no, no they're failing. If anything, they seem to be having trouble. They were being pushed back.

Yeah, they had no idea what their reality was.

They were clearly not very high in level. I bet their skills were even less impressive. I have no idea why they were so confident a moment ago. Didn't Nishino tell them that collecting food and staying safe was their biggest priority?

Glasses was looking at the fight, and his face seemed to be getting paler by the second. He quickly picked up his bag.

“...! So-sorry!”

“Ah, hey! Ono! The hell!?” “Don't run. Hey!”

Glasses abandoned his friends and ran away. He quickly became a small speck in the distance. Man, he was fast on his feet...

Well, he made the right decision, though. And these guys were not going to listen to him either way. And they were almost sure to lose. In that case, he should just grab what he can and run away.

Yeah, it was the right thing to do. At least, it's what I would have done.

Now, what will happen to these guys?

“Hah...hah...damn it!” “Hey, what are we going to do...? I don't know if we can...” “Shut up! We came this far, we have no choice but to keep fighting!”

The students were wounded, and they became more and more tired. They were probably going to die.

“AHHHHHHGHH!!!”

One of the students roared and charged into a lesser wolf. But the lesser wolf dodged this easily, and nearly bit into his neck in the process. Ah, they were finished now.

Or so I thought. Bang! I heard the sound of a bullet being shot.

“...Huh?”

The lesser wolf's head exploded.

“What...?”

The students looked confused. They had no idea what was happening. I was no different.

What? What was happening?

Then again, bang! The shot sounded. And then the other lesser wolf's head exploded.

...Could it be? Was there a sniper? But, where was it coming from? Was it some skill that Glasses had? No, I didn't think so. The sound was coming from the opposite direction that he had run. It was coming from...

I look in the direction that the sound was coming from. There was a tall apartment building about 100 meters away. There was a strange light shining from the roof. That must be it.

"He-hey! I don't know what that was, but let's get out of here while we can!" "Ah, yeah!" "Ahhh!!"

They ran with all the speed that they could muster. But my attention was not at that pathetic sight, it was now completely drawn towards the apartment building.

Someone shot from over there? But that's so far away. A rifle? ...But, this was Japan. No, maybe it was a skill?

As different questions ran through my head, a voice echoed.

...What?

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Chapter 44

Source: Chronicles of Chaos

Report

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The World Is Overflowing with Monster, I'm Taking a Liking to This Life 44  
44. Mail

What, what was that just now...? That's not something I've heard it say before...?

You have reached the requirements You can now acquire the 'Mail' skill You have 1 unread message

The voice rings in my head again. ...Mail. It really did say 'mail' just now, didn't it? I heard it right this time.

"Bark!"

"Uh...ah!"

I return to myself at hearing Momo. That's right. I needed to hide for now. Momo and I quickly move over to a nearby wall.

No one would be able to see us from the mansion now. They would not be able to snipe at us. Well, given that whoever it was, killed the monsters and let the students go, they at least seemed to not be targeting humans. But still, it was good to be cautious.

Though, if the person wanted to shoot me, they had plenty of opportunities to do so. ...The thought sent chills down my spine. I didn't know who it was, but if they wanted me dead, I would be lying on the ground right now. Just knowing this makes me sweat. I'm so stupid...I let my guard down too much.

“Bark.” “...(shaking)

Momo and Aka looked at me with concern. Oh, sorry you two. That’s right. Instead of just feeling down, I can just use this experience to do better next time.

Alright. I feel better now. I feel much calmer. Now then—what was this mail thing!?

Judging by the voice in my head, it seems that there is a ‘Mail’ skill.

I open my status plate. Then I check the column with additional skills. There was something called ‘Mail’ there now. I needed 1 point to acquire it. That was lower than the other skills. I was obviously curious, but I currently only had 0 points. I wouldn’t be able to acquire it until I gained a level.

But I wanted to know...

Couldn’t I at least check the content of the message that was just sent to me? As I wondered about this, the status screen changed. Huh?

When the status screen changed, it displayed something called ‘Mail Menu.’ I look through the categories and see Compose Message, Inbox, Outbox, Unread, and Address Book. On the bottom, there was a keyboard to enter your message. It was like a three-dimensional computer screen. I had no idea that such features existed...

Among the items, the one that read ‘Unread’ was blinking. I try touching it. 1 Unread message. From: Natsu Ichinose Subject: Hello

...It really is a message. What was happening in this world? Anything goes huh? No, perhaps this was a method of contacting people that was established because we can’t use phones anymore? In any case, I should probably see what this is all about.

I mean, who is this person anyway? Natsu Ichinose...? I don’t know anyone by that name, and I don’t think there was anyone with that family name at the company. Of course, I didn’t have that many friends, to begin with. I could count the number of friends I had on one hand, and so I’d remember someone with that name. When had we met? I look through the contents of the message.

Sorry to message you so suddenly. My name is Natsu Ichinose. You saw the fight happen just now, didn’t you? I’m the one who was shooting.

“...What?”

I couldn’t help but say aloud. What...? It was this person’s work? A lot of questions enter my head, but I decide to continue reading for now.

I saw that you were hiding and watching the fight. It was only a coincidence that I saw you. I was looking from the roof of the mansion and saw the students raiding the store of food. And then I saw you and your doggy.

I was going to send you a message then, but the monsters appeared first. While they were complete strangers to me, I thought it would be unfortunate to see them die, and so I helped them.

I am sorry to have alarmed you. But it did save their lives, and so I think that I made the right choice.

Now, let me get to the real subject. The reason that I am writing to you like this, is because I want to join you and your doggy's party.

Why all of a sudden? You may ask. But the truth is, I knew of you from before. Do you remember? It was yesterday, you were at a store that is several kilometers away from here. You were fighting against several goblins. While I was far away, I was able to observe your methods for fighting. Seeing your calculated and refined style filled me with much admiration.

And the shiba dog that accompanies you is just wonderful. Strength, adorableness, quality of fur. All of these aspects have taken a hold of my heart, and will not let go.

And seeing all of this has given me a strong wish to help you. I am sure that this sudden message must be confusing to you, but I hope that you understand, and consider my proposition. I eagerly await your answer.

"..."

Er, what is this? Some kind of business mail?

Well, I think it is in fact, an invitation to join parties, but the language is so formal. It was like something you'd get from a management company.

But what should I do?

"...At least, it doesn't seem like something from a bad person..."

But I didn't know anything about the sender. And the text was so stiff. But this part:

'And the shiba dog that accompanies you is just wonderful. Strength, adorableness, quality of fur. All of these aspects have taken a hold of my heart, and will not let go.'

This part alone made me confident that the sender was not a bad person.

Why? There was no way that someone who understood Momo's adorableness could be bad.

Well, leaving that aside. What should I do...?

I couldn't be for certain that it wasn't a trap, and I could always just ignore the message for now. No, that wouldn't be good. After all, this person knows about me. If they saw me fighting the goblins yesterday, they must have seen the moment when I pulled out the items. It would be safe to assume that they knew I had the 'Item Box' skill, or something similar.

...Maybe, was it that feeling I had of being watched during that time? I felt like someone was watching me then, and so it would make sense if it was this person. If there was a chance that they would tell everyone about my skill, then I couldn't just ignore it.

And there was a possibility that the desire to join our party was genuine. A partner who was capable of ranged attacks, like I had wanted. And with enough firepower to kill monsters in one shot from a great distance. There was no doubt about it. Having this person join would be a huge bonus to our strength.

I wasn't completely convinced yet, but it seemed that I should at least reply. I would just say, 'let me think about it' and buy some time. I click on the 'Reply' button.

You have not acquired the 'Mail' skill yet. You cannot reply to messages. The voice says in my head. Hey, hey. I can't reply without getting the Mail skill? I check the other options just to see, and they are all inaccessible as well. Apparently, the only thing you could do without the skill was to read incoming messages.

I would have to level up first. I would leave this area and kill monsters to level up. And just try to get this skill as soon as possible.

"I'll reply later then."

I had to get away from here first. The fact that this person found me meant that there was a high likelihood that they could see through my Presence Block and Conceal skills. As I wasn't sure I trusted them yet, and since they could snipe me from far away, it would be too dangerous to get any closer. We carefully moved so that we could not be targeted from the apartment building, and left the area.

On the other hand, on the apartment roof—

"...This is fine, right?"

The girl, Natsu Ichinose, looked at the message she had sent. How exactly did you get in contact with someone you didn't know? The answer was through 'Mail.' She was a shy person, but this was a method of communication that she could use. She was so happy when she got this skill, that she almost started dancing. Now, this was something made just for her.

With this useful skill, she would be able to get in contact with anyone that she had met before. Of course, it was limited to humans, but that was hardly a problem.

"Now I will be able to meet that doggy...!"

That was the only on her mind when she sent the message. But she had always wanted to join someone's party, and everything in the message was said from the heart. Even if he was trash, she saw that he had good points as well. She specialized in ranged attacks. He specialized in close quarters combat. They could supplement where the other fell short. It was a win-win situation. Well, that was all nothing next to the shiba dog.

She had felt that it was fate when she just happened upon them a moment ago. Now it was just about waiting for them to answer with an okay. She had no doubt that they would say yes. She was used to being spoiled.

"...I can't see them now that they are behind the wall. Did he even check the message I sent?"

He was behind the building now, and so she could not see them. Maybe it would be best to send a second one, just in case. What if he thought it was suspicious, and just ignored it?

The first impression was always important. She had sounded too formal the first time. And so she altered the message a little.



“...Is it still too formal?”

She pushed Send.

“Oh...there’s a typo. Oh, no. I have to send it again now.”

Send.

“...Maybe I should have praised the doggy a little more?”

Send.

“Yes, this one. This one is perfect.”

Send.

“...When is he going to reply...”

Send.

“I’ll just send one more. Just in case.”

Send.

“Hmm, I’ll change the wording a little.”

Send.

“Also...”

Send, Send, Send. Send, Send, Send, Send. Send, Send, Send, Send, Send.

And after one hour of constant sending-

“Oh, I finally got a reply.”

What a relief. She had sent 54 messages, and it looks like he finally noticed them. It seemed that he lacked sufficient SP, and so he couldn’t get the Mail skill. And so he had to level up, which is why it took time to reply.

“Ohh...that’s good.”

“Please give me some time to consider your offer. Rest assured, that I have been reading your Emails. It is unnecessary for you to keep sending them. Please stop. Please.”

That was his positive reply. Yes, things were looking good. She would reply with an ‘I understand, I hope to hear from you soon.’

However, there was something about his reply that seemed very careful, like he was trying not to offend her. What could be the reason for that? She tilted her head in puzzlement.

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Chapter 45

Source: Chronicles of Chaos

Report

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The World Is Overflowing with Monster, I’m Taking a Liking to This Life 45  
45. It’s Not My Fault! It’s Not My Fault!

...I feel like I just got a glimpse of the horrors of modern society. The horrors of Email. I mean, this girl was scary. Well, I wasn’t sure if the person was a girl or a guy. But I think it’s a girl.

Oh, damn it. Damn it... What is wrong with this person?

Seriously. 45 messages in one hour! I was in a horror film. I felt the madness.

I had listened to the voice in my head say ring once every minute. I thought that I was going crazy. I don't think I have ever been so strongly mentally abused before.

How bad was it? My 'Stress Resistance' gained a level. It went from LV5 to LV6. Which at least made things easier for me. Damn it!

"Ahh...I feel so terrible now..."

I squat down and hold my head. I'm being targeted by someone mental... Seriously, what am I going to do... No matter how you looked at it, I had nothing but bad feelings about it.

Ahh, I wanted to run away. Ignore it. Pretend that it hadn't happened. I wanted to punch myself for ever thinking that I would like to have a partner with ranged attacks.

I don't think I've ever hunted monsters more desperately than I did in these past three days. Even as I fought them, the voice would continue to ring in my head. . Once my level went up, I didn't hesitate for a second to select the 'Mail' skill. And the first thing I looked for was the 'Block Function.' Maybe I could block her from sending me anything. But there was no block feature! Damn it!

I was starting to feel like I was going crazy. I would have died if Momo's fluffiness wasn't here.

"Bark?"

Momo tilts her head. Ahh, so cute. That was enough to make me feel better. I would do my best today as well...

"...(shaking)"

Ahh, sorry, Aka. It's not that I have forgotten you. Yes, it's very comfortable. They weren't so bad once you got used to them, these slimes.

"Ahhh... I don't think she is actually a bad person..."

She's just strange in the head. Ah, no, that is more dangerous.

Again... Didn't I tell her to let me consider it? What did she want? I scratch my head angrily and open the message.

'Oh, there is one thing that I have forgotten to tell you. Once you get to level 2, you will have access to a new chat feature. There will be less time lag that way, and we will be able to get to know each other better. I highly recommend it.'

Eeeee... I did not want to know that.

Look how I was already. I just knew that something horrible would happen on the day that I add that feature.

...Yeah, I'm fine with sticking to Emails.

"I understand. Thank you so much for the valuable information. Please wait a little longer in regard to the matter of joining my party. Additionally, it is not strictly necessary for you to incessantly send me messages. Rest assured, that I am reading them. I understand what you are telling me just fine."

There. Send. Even after I asked her to give me time to consider, she kept sending me messages now and again...

This really wasn't normal. Why couldn't she think about others for a second?

Also, it seemed like she wasn't even aware of it either, which made it even worse.

There are people like this, you meet them sometimes. Those people that have no intention of bothering you, but manage to do it all the time. I am not a fan of these types of people. Think about others for a minute.

"Bark..." "...(shaking)"

Momo and Aka looked at me as if they wanted to tell me something. What? Are you saying there is something wrong with me?

But really, what was this Natsu Ichinose person like?

Her level, job, skills, also the gun. There was so much that bothered me.

Especially the gun. Where did she even get it? It clearly wasn't an air gun. I didn't think that it was possible to get what was likely a real sniper rifle in Japan. If there was a way to get one, it was probably through illegal routes. Like a certain occupation starting with 'Ya.' She killed a lesser wolf with one shot. And from that distance too. The power must be incredible. What were anti-material rifles again? Like Barretts or Hecates? I wasn't very knowledgeable about guns, so I had no idea.

But she had the skills to use such guns with ease. She must be at a really high level.

Or maybe she had a skill that allowed her to acquire weapons, or even make the weapons. It was possible... There was a 'Mail' skill after all. So maybe there was an 'Internet' and 'Online Shopping' skill as well.

"There is no point in thinking about it now..."

It would be best to just ask her about it. But I had a feeling that she wouldn't tell me.

"Well, I bought some time, so I might as well think about it..."

The idea of support with long ranged weapons was appealing, but my head would explode the moment I was betrayed. I couldn't make a decision too quickly. I need to find out whether or not I can really trust this person.

It might be best to just talk with her for a while through 'Mail.' Not that I wanted to. I really don't. But then it will allow me to slowly get information and learn more about her. She had contacted me with 'Mail' to begin with, so she must be fine about not meeting in person yet.

"Maybe we can become pen pals?"

I think as we returned to exploring the town once again.

...As I said, it's too early! Too early! How impatient was she!? And this was how a suspicious pen pal became a part of our exploration.

At the same time, at the home center...

The student with glasses, Ono, had safely returned to the base. His friends greeted him with smiles.

"Ono, you are alright! I'm so relieved! ...Where are the others?"

"Uh, um... We were attacked by monsters on the way, and we got separated..."

“...I see, alright. Well, I’m still glad, even if it was only you that got back safely. So glad...”

Nishino showed no signs of suspicion at Ono’s words. Ono’s heart ached at the sight of him being worried over him.

“Yes...right. Oh, this, it’s not much. But I got some...food.”

As if to change the subject, Ono gave the bag of food to Nishino. Seeing this, Nishino and the others’ faces lit up.

“Thank you. You go and rest.”

“Yeah. ...Oh, what about Shibata and the others? They’re not back yet?”

“Ah, they are way behind schedule. It seems like something might have happened.”

“Oh...I see...”

“Yes. I’m thinking of sending out a search party if they don’t return within an hour. We don’t have many people left, so we won’t be able to search for the guys who were with you immediately...but I hope you understand.”

“...”

Ono felt even worse, seeing how worried the others were. It was a lie that he had lost them. He had abandoned them and run away.

(...It’s not my fault. It’s not my fault...! They were acting on their own. And they ignored my advice...yes. It’s not my fault. It’s not my fault...!)

He told himself over and over again.

And then Shibata returned minutes later. The information that he carried, would strike a grievous blow to Nishino and the others.

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Chapter 46

Source: Chronicles of Chaos

Report

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I will be increasing the chapters to 10 chapters per month

The World Is Overflowing with Monster, I’m Taking a Liking to This Life 46

46. Slimes You Could Find Anywhere

I have incredibly good news.

After finishing my reply to Ichinose, I carefully inspected the Mail skill again, inch by inch.

And while I did not find a ‘Block Function,’ I did find something like a Silent Mode.

It would mean that I wouldn’t hear the voice in my head every time I received a new message.

Not only that, but I was able to use it at LV1. Wonderful.

I felt incredibly lucky as I quickly set the Skill to Silent Mode.

Now things would be a lot quieter in my head, and I would be able to relax a little more.

Ahh, that was good.

It's important, isn't it? Silent mode.

I mean, it's pretty much a rule of society, to put your phone on silent mode when you are at a meeting or visiting important people.

It would be incredibly bad manners if you were negotiating with someone, and your phone rang, and you started talking on it right then and there.

Well, in any case, now I would be able to feel calmer when I travel.

Yes!

Your proficiency has reached a new level

The Mail skill has gone from LV1 to LV2

...

Uhh, I'll pretend that I didn't hear that.

My Mail skill is still LV1.

Yes, that is the truth.

You have reached the requirements

The Chat feature has been added to Mail

There is currently 1 registered person you can chat with

Do you wish to use chat now?

"..."

Wordlessly, I select 'No.'

And then I check the Mail features.

...Hmm, yeah, it was there alright, this chat feature.

Damn it all!

Why did I have to gain a level right now!

It's not right!

Why couldn't I gain a level with something like Swordsmanship or Vitals Strike!

I'm using them as much as I can!

I'll just look through the chat feature.

Oh, I can turn it on and off. Lucky me.

I turn it off without hesitation.

I see that there is already another 'Unread' message.

...That can wait.

Yes.

I don't even want to look.

Now, I should return to exploring.

I pretended that I hadn't seen a thing, and started walking again with Momo.

"There are a lot more rice paddies here..."

As we walked on for a while, we started seeing rice paddies.

This was on the outskirts of town, the corners really. So it wasn't an unusual sight.

"It's already May, the season to start planting."

The rice paddies were full of water, and green rice plants were inside of it.

That being said, this rice would not grow any further than this.

There was no one left to take care of them.

But it was a nice view.

It healed my heart, which had been ravaged by Mail.

And the Unread message was scary to me. There were probably more stacking up even now...

"...Hmm?"

As I pondered this and gazed at the rice paddies, something caught my eye.

-It was a slime.

There was a slime floating languidly on the water.

There were a lot of them, actually.

I didn't think they'd appear in a place like this as well.

Well, they didn't even seem to be up to anything. They were just floating there.

They allowed the water to take them from one corner to the next.

Occasionally, they would nibble on some of the plants.

How relaxing.

"Bark?"

What are you going to do? Momo asks me.

What can I do...

It's too much trouble to fight them. I think I'll just leave them be?

"...(shaking)"

As I thought this, Aka started to shake.

He turned back into his normal form and approached Momo.

What happened?

"...(shaking, shaking)"

Aka shook.

And then Momo nodded understandingly.

Huh? Were they having a conversation?

"Bark!"

Momo barked and then unleashed her shadow into the rice paddies.

And then she caught one of the slimes.

The slime didn't even bother to resist as it was dragged back to where Momo was.

It was like fishing jellyfish...

"Momo, Aka. What are you going to do with that slime?"

I ask with curiosity. Then Aka moved closer to the slime.

And then Aka did the most surprising thing.

It started to absorb the slime into its body.

"What!?"

I couldn't help but say out loud.

Aka's body covered the other slime's like a blanket, gradually incorporating it into its body.

The slime that was being ingested did not resist. It allowed it to happen. Its body was becoming smaller and smaller now.

It took about one minute.

Aka finished ingesting the slime completely, then it shivered with satisfaction.

I feel like Aka's body was just a little bigger now than before.

It was a pretty shocking sight, though.

I hadn't known... Slimes can eat other slimes.

No, maybe it wasn't so much eating as, fusing...?

And then Aka came over to me and started to shake again.

What is it now?

I looked with strong interest, and this time, Aka's body split into two.

Wh-what the!?

"...(shaking, shaking)"

"...(shaking, shaking)"

The two Aka's shivered.

It seemed like they were smaller now.

Maybe two-thirds of the original Aka's size.

I continue to stare at them.

"Hmm? What?"

"...(shaking)"

"...(shaking)"

It seemed like they wanted me to praise them.

See? Look what I can do! They seemed to boast...I think so, anyway.

What if it had only fused with that slime so I would praise it?

"Oh...uh, that's amazing Aka. I didn't know you could do that! Yeah, wow!"

I say. The two Aka's looked happy, and they started to bounce up and down.

Though, they couldn't actually jump if they wanted to.

I thought that they wanted to be petted, so I did.

While they were cool to the touch, it was still a nice feeling.

Aka shuddered with pleasure.

"Brrrr..."

Momo started to rub against me.

I guess she wanted some attention too.

Haha, what a cutey.

"Ahh, you did well too, Momo. Thank you for helping Aka."

I say as I pet her. Momo smiled happily.

I enjoy the softness of her fur for a while.

It was a happy time.

"-Should I fuse with more slimes?"

After petting them for some time, Aka asked me this question.

Apparently, Aka was able to raise its abilities through fusing with other slimes.

It would be very convenient for me, but was Aka really okay with it?

They were the same time of species, maybe there would be an aversion to doing it?

I asked, but Aka said there was not.

Slimes seemed to not have any sense of solidarity amongst each other.

Well then, I had no complaints about it.  
Momo and I started to catch slimes and give them to Aka.  
Not only were there slimes in the rice paddies, but also in the drainage basins.  
As they allowed the water to take them anywhere, they must have ended up collecting here.  
And so we were able to give Aka a lot of slimes.  
“Alright then. We should move along now.”  
I didn’t want to stay in any one place for too long.  
Just as we started to move away from the rice paddies, ‘Scout’ detected something.  
It wasn’t a human...it was a monster.  
And it seemed much stronger than anything I had sensed before.  
I immediately had Momo use her shadow, and Aka its disguise.  
I too hid and used Conceal in order to see what it was.  
Then I used ‘Telescope’ to look in the direction where the presence was detected.  
“That...”  
My eyes widened when I saw the monster.  
It was obese and massive, with the head of a pig.  
An orc.  
Its nose twitched as it scanned at its surroundings, then it started to come closer to use.  
...Was it searching for something?  
What to do?  
It was only one orc.  
Should I run, or should I fight...

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Chapter 47  
Source: Chronicles of Chaos  
Report

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The World Is Overflowing with Monster, I’m Taking a Liking to This Life 47  
I stare quietly at the orc while remaining hidden.  
The orc was checking its surroundings, section by section.  
...Was it searching for prey?  
No, it’s movements were too unnatural for that.  
It looked like it was wary of something.  
Its nose twitched now and again.  
“Sniff! ...Oink!”  
And then, it’s gaze moved towards me.  
Could I have been-caught?  
“FFFGHAAAAOOO!!”



The orc brandished its weapon and started moving towards me.  
There was no hesitation in its movements.  
...There was no doubt about it. This guy knew that we were here!  
Now that I think of it, don't pigs have a superior sense of smell compared to dogs?  
Maybe that also applies to orcs as well.  
Damn! It wasn't just shadow wolves, but 'Conceal' didn't work against orcs either! This is the worst.  
I cursed in my heart, but I had made my decision.  
Thankfully, 'Scout' told me that there were no other monsters nearby.  
Even the 'Danger Detection' alarm was not that bad.  
Orcs should probably be equal to shadow wolves, or maybe a little stronger.  
And it was only one orc as well.  
I had a chance of winning if I kept my cool and fought.  
"FFGHAAAA!"  
The orc started to run faster as soon as it saw me.  
The distance was shrinking by the second, he was now within reach of my skill.  
Now!  
"Momo!"  
"Bark!"  
Momo's 'Shadow' shot out and stretched towards the orc. It would try to capture it if it could.  
"FFGWAAHOO!!"  
But the orc used the knife in its hand to forcefully fight it off.  
Impressive. But at least it was keeping him busy.  
Now I can finish him!  
I unleashed some heavy machinery over its head.  
"!?"  
The orc stood in shock at the sudden appearance of the object.  
He makes a desperate attempt to run, but it's too late.  
Momo's shadow gets in the way and blocks his path.  
The orc is resisting with all of its strength, but there is no escape now.  
This was the end for it.  
Judging by what I witnessed of the fight with the defense force and the people at the shopping center, normal orcs are not that resilient. Unlike 'him.'  
I should be able to crush this one.  
I was confident in our victory.  
"...Huh?"  
However, at the moment, 'Danger Detection' started going off.  
The orc had thrown his knife at me.  
He was clearly aiming it towards me.  
The blade shoots forward at an incredible speed.  
Damn...damn!

I knew that I wouldn't be able to dodge it in time, so I tried to create a wall from the Item Box instead.

"-(shaking)!!"

But Aka moved before I could.

Aka had been disguised as my clothes.

His body had now swollen up! It caught the knife that was flying towards me.

The knife lost all momentum, and it stopped when it was enveloped by Aka's body. And then Aka let it drop to the floor.

The orc looked at this with shock.

And then the huge mass above him crushed him.

You have earned experience points

The voice announced the death of the orc.

Ah, that was a close one... I barely made it out alive.

My heart was beating loudly, an uncomfortable sweat was dripping from my back.

"Thank you, Aka. You saved me..."

I said as I petted it. Aka shook with visible pleasure.

"Ahhh..."

...I had let my guard down.

And the orc had seen it and moved.

I was reminded that these were real monsters that I fought against, and they had their own will.

They were just as desperate as I was.

They didn't want to die, and they would fight back until the last second.

I retrieved the heavy machinery and picked up the fallen magic stone and the knife.

When I put them in the Item Box, they were displayed as 'Orc Magic Stone(small)' and 'Orc Knife.'

"Sorry, Momo. But can I give this one to Aka?"

"Bark."

Momo nodded, and so I gave the stone to Aka.

It wasn't much for a reward, but I still wanted to give it to Aka.

Aka's body shivered with joy as it took the stone into its body.

"Now, shall we keep moving...?"

Just as I was about to stand up again, 'Scout' started to react to something again.

It was the same direction that the orc had come from.

But this time, there were many.

"Could it be that orc's pack...?"

I used 'Telescope' and looked in the direction that Scout indicated.

And what I saw, was a pack of shadow wolves.

There were so many of them. More than ten.

The shadow wolves were sniffing at the ground as they came towards me.

...Had the orc been running away from the wolves?

That would at least explain why it was moving so strangely.  
Was it a fight between monsters then?  
No, I'll think about it later.  
I needed to get out of here as soon as possible.  
I had no intention of fighting that many shadow wolves here.  
"Damn...I guess I have to return the same way that I came..."  
It took me so much time to get here, but now I had to go back.  
We all felt quite solemn, as we turned around and walked in the direction that we had come.  
At the same time, on the roof of the apartment-.  
Natsu Ichinose was staring at her Mail screen.  
He wasn't replying.  
What on earth was happening here?  
Was he fighting monsters now?  
Or did he simply forget to answer her?  
"...Maybe, did I send too many messages?"  
It might have been overkill to send 45 messages to someone she didn't know.  
While it was a bit late, she finally realized this.  
"I hope he doesn't find me annoying to deal with..."  
It would not feel good to lose this potential party member and that adorable doggy.  
She wanted to be friends with them if possible. And she wanted to pet the doggy.  
It would probably be best to slow down with the messages for now.  
"I guess I will just wait for a reply..."  
She would only check her Inbox once every few minutes.  
Until then, she would focus on leveling up.  
"The owner, this Kudou guy seems nice. And I do want to join them..."  
In her mind, she hadn't had the best opinion of the owner. But her opinion had improved slightly after messaging him a few times.  
Loners tended to become fond of people who gave them attention.  
But she didn't even remember what he looked like. She remembered Momo very well.  
"Ah, there..."  
She found a monster through the scope of her rifle.  
It was a goblin.  
There was only one. This was perfect.  
She aimed carefully and then pulled the trigger.  
The bullet went right between its eyes as she had intended, and it fell dead.  
You have earned experience points  
"...Mmm, good."  
After that, she continued to kill goblins and lesser wolves to gain experience points.  
"This gun is so powerful..."

She stroked her beloved friend with much affection.

"...It has more than enough strength to make up for my weak stats."

Her status was lower than average.

Most of them were in the single digits, the only thing that was in the doubles was her MP.

The reason had everything to do with the job that she chose.

"Ahhhhh, why did I choose 'Shut-in'..."

She had only chosen it out of curiosity.

But the moment that she selected this job, her stats dropped to a tremendous degree.

She wasn't sure if it was because of this job, but now, her stats would barely change even when her level went up.

"But on the other hand, I wouldn't have gotten this gun or my other job skills if I hadn't chosen this job..."

'Shut-in' caused your stats to be dramatically lowered.

But it gave you two special skills in return.

"I'll do another one to cheer me up."

She chose a certain skill from the skill table.

It was one of the skills that she acquired when she chose Shut-in.

When she selected it, a box materialized one meter away from her.

It was a clear case that was full of balls.

They were capsule toys. The ones that were inside of gacha machines.

Use 1 SP and turn the gacha?

The voice sounds in her head.

She selects yes.

The Gacha skill allowed you to use 1 point of SP in order to turn the gacha 3 times and win various prizes.

The prizes could be anything from food to daily supplies, and sometimes even new jobs or skills.

She had even acquired the Mail skill through this gacha.

"Hmm, what will I get this time..."

She turned the lever and a white capsule came out.

"Looks bad..."

White capsules usually didn't contain any rare items.

When she opened it, it transformed into cup ramen.

There was a red type and a green type. Three of each were stuffed into a bag.

She was happy to have food, but it wasn't what she wanted right now.

She tried again.

This time it was a blue capsule.

"Oh, this might be good."

She opened the capsule, and the voice sounded in her head.

You have acquired 1 SP

She did a mental fist pump.

You could sometimes get SP and JP like this with Gacha.

Now that she had gotten 1 point, it meant that she was getting stuff for free.  
“Last one...”

She felt the mounting excitement as she turned the lever.

A black capsule rolled out.

Her smile widened.

Black capsules were the most likely to contain rare items.

She eagerly opened the capsule, and then the voice played in her head.

You have acquired the skill ‘Physical Strengthening’

“Yes...!”

She expressed her happiness with her whole body.

She had finally got the skill that she wanted.

When she checked her status, she could see that her strength and endurance had increased.

“Now it will be easier to move around...”

This time the gacha had been a great success.

She hadn’t gotten any status increase skills the last time.

What she did get, was pencils, nail clippers, vitamins, and other things she didn’t care about.

Thanks to that, she had had a very hard time up until now.

But now that she had this skill, things should be easier.

She was in a good mood as she continued her level grind.

And then something strange appeared in her scope.

“...What’s this?”

It was a group of orcs.

There were more than ten of them. So many.

Not only that, but there was one among them who was clearly different.

Its skin was a bronze color, and it was bigger than the others.

“I don’t think I can take that one...”

She could probably manage to hunt a single orc, but a whole group was too much.

And then there was this bronze orc. It would be much stronger.

She was no match for it.

“But where are they headed?”

It didn’t seem like they were wandering aimlessly around.

It looked like they had a destination in mind.

“The building over there...”

She opened her map and checked the surrounding buildings.

And then her eyes landed on it-.

“—The home center...?”

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Chapter 48

Source: Chronicles of Chaos

Report

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The World Is Overflowing with Monster , I'm Taking a Liking to This Life 48  
48. The Footsteps of Destruction

We were going back the way that we had come in order to escape the pack of shadow wolves. It did not feel good to retreat when we had come all of this way, but it wasn't worth risking our lives. Just like the orcs, the shadow wolves had a keen sense of smell. They would have likely followed us if we stayed any longer, and I just couldn't do anything risky at this point.

"I feel like I have some sort of connection to the shadow wolves..."

And not in a good way. For some reason, they had specifically targeted me at the home center. It made me wonder if running over that first shadow wolf, in the beginning, had caused them to hate me more than usual.

"Let's rest a little for now."

"Bark."

I sit down on the ground and lean back against a vending machine. Scout and Danger Detection were not showing anything nearby. As my mouth was feeling dry, I took out a sports drink from the Item Box. Momo looked like she wanted some, so I put some in a plate. Of course, it was her personal plate. Now that my thirst was quenched, I took out the butcher's knife I had got through my fight with the orc.

"An orc knife...huh."

That's exactly what it was. It was about 80 centimeters in length. It wasn't rusted at all and looked like it would cut cleanly.

I try swinging it around. Yeah, this amount of weight shouldn't be a problem. I think I would replace my kitchen knife with this from now on. I wasn't going to avoid using it just because it was a monster's weapon. Still, my main method of attack was ambushing enemies with the Item Box. So I shouldn't get into any real sword fights, I think. I mean, I would be in trouble if I did. But it was still good to have a strong weapon. It might help me improve my Swordsmanship and Vital Strike skill.

Now that I think of it, the female student in Nishino's group had a weapon like this too. But hers was a billhook.

"Oh, I guess I should check my Email then..."

I open the Mail display, and as expected, there were even more Unread messages now. ...I'll just reply to the most recent one.

"Mmm...?"

As I skimmed through the text, there was something in the latest message that caught my eye.

"She saw a pack of orcs...?"

The text said that she had seen a pack of orcs and that I should be careful. I had received the message a few minutes ago. Around the time that I was running away from the shadow wolves.

...A pack of orcs. The first thing that I thought of, was the orcs from the shopping mall. When I read the message further, I saw the words 'bronze-colored orc.' There was no mistake. It was him. Were they moving to find

new prey? This was incredibly bad. Not only that, but they were sighted not too far from here. Near the place that we had fought the hobgoblins.

When I concentrated my consciousness in that direction, I did get a 'bad feeling' from it. It was a similar feeling to the one I got when I was going to the shopping mall from the convenient store.

It seemed that Ichinose's information was true. I needed to thank her for it. I'll send her a thank you message.

...It only took a few seconds for her to reply to it. As I said, it's way too fast! I mean, Ichinose, if you have time to be replying to messages, you should hurry up and get out of there.

"Hmm..."

This really wasn't good. It seemed that there were more and more monsters in this area all of a sudden. And I needed to be extra careful with the pack of shadow wolves and the pack of orcs. The existence of these two packs was really restricting my movements. I would have to make a huge detour from my original route. Well, it couldn't be helped. It would take more time, but safety was important.

...Mmm? Wait a second. Wasn't the home center also close to that area?

...I wonder if Nishino and the others are alright? Well, I had a feeling that they would make it out just fine.

Now, which route should I take...

At the same time, at the home center-

Now that Shibata had returned, Nishino asked him about what had happened.

The returned Shibata was haggard and on the verge of panic. His wounds were quickly treated, and now that he was calming down, Nishino decided to question him.

Shibata told him in a trembling voice. They had decided to search farther out and headed for the shopping mall. And then they had encountered an orc with unbelievable strength. Everyone but Shibata had died there. He told him everything without hiding anything.

"I see..."

After hearing this story, Nishino looked up at the ceiling and mumbled.

"I understand. I'm glad that you were able to get away, Shibata..."

He put a hand on Shibata's tired shoulder.

"...Nishino. I'm a terrible person. I abandoned my friends, and fled by myself...damn it! Damn it!"

Shibata clenched his fists with anger and remorse. He didn't know where to direct these feelings. He was usually short tempered and ill-bred, but his feelings of camaraderie were real.

"Yes, I know. But Shibata, we wouldn't have received this information if you had died. You did well. There is no need to feel ashamed."

"..."

Shibata looked away upon hearing this.

"You don't believe me? Then let me put it this way. If you feel even a little bad about their deaths, then you should try to live as long as possible. If not, then for what purpose did they die? For what purpose did you abandon them? If you want to find meaning for your actions, if you want to repay them for what happened, then you must continue to fight and live... Got that?"

"...Yes."

He couldn't argue against Nishino. And so Shibata only nodded. He wasn't satisfied with it, but there was nothing else that could be done.

(...If he really isn't able to recover from this, well, I'll deal with it when the time comes)

Nishino thought, but didn't allow it to show on his face.

"So, Nisshi. What are we going to do now?"

Rikka, the female high school student saw that they were finished, and raised her voice. Nishino had to chuckle at her lack of nervousness even at a time like this.

"...Yes. With such a strong monster approaching us, we will have no choice but to relocate."

"Relocate?"

"The school, or maybe the city office. Both places are quite far from here, but they should have better facilities than here. There will probably be more refugees as well."

"Will they welcome us there? They probably don't have room for any more people either."

"We'll have to negotiate. In any case, let's figure out a route so we can leave as soon as we are finished packing."

Nishino spread out a map. A route that they could follow with their numbers. And it had to be a safe one. This would not be easy. He looked hard at the map as he thought about what they would have to do—then it happened.

"OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOooo!!"

The cry of a monster boomed in the air. It was so strong that the entire building seemed to shake.

"Ambush! AMBUUUUSH!" "Monsters! The orc pack is here!"

The shouts came from the entrance.

"...It seems like they arrived a lot faster than we'd thought."

"...Looks like it."

The two of them picked up their weapons and headed for the entrance.

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Chapter 49

Source: Chronicles of Chaos

Report

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The World Is Overflowing with Monster, I'm Taking a Liking to This Life 49  
49. Encounter

At the home center-.

By the time Nishino and Rikka reached the entrance, the situation was already bad. The students and refugees could do nothing but try and defend themselves against the orcs.

"You guys, are you okay!?"

"Ni-nishino!" "They're too strong! I, I don't think I can hold them any longer!" "What should we do?" "Damn! I don't want to die heeeeeere!"

"Stay back! You monsters! You! Moonsteeers!"

While they were relieved to see the two arrive, they barely had any time to reply.

(This was...very bad...)

From what he could see now, there were over 10 orcs here. And each one seemed very strong. Much stronger than the goblins and lesser wolves they had fought yesterday.

(It's one thing for my fellow classmates to fight them, but these refugees are clearly outmatched... Damn it. They have barely even leveled up.)

In fact, several of the refugees had already thrown down their weapons and returned to the back of the home center. They seemed very defeated after experiencing the battle yesterday.

"Damn it...useless bastards. They complained so much when they weren't fighting, but now they were fine with being useless."

It was now clear that those who ran back should not be counted as part of their fighting force. But this situation was not something that they could deal with, with such few numbers. And more than anything, he was wary of the bronze-colored orc in the back.

(...That was one obviously on a different level than the others. Was that the one that Shibata was talking about...?)

Even now, the bronze orc showed no signs of moving. He was only looking at them from afar. Nishino felt sweat drip from his forehead. This was not good. His instincts told him that everything would be over the moment that that orc moved.

"...Rikka."

"Yeah?"

Nishino addressed Rikka, who stood next to him with her billhook.

"Do you think you could fight that bronze orc over there?"

"Hmm..."

Rikka answered him lazily and inspected the orc. A few seconds passed. Then she sighed.

"...Sorry, Nisshi. Not that one. I'll die."

She lacked any sense of nervousness as usual. Still, more than anything, her reply showed the difference in power between them and the enemy.

"Even if you use 'Berzerk' to its limits?"

"Yeah, it's a nope. I can't do it."

"I see..."

If Rikka was so sure of her defeat, then there was no possibility of them winning. In that case, there was only one thing to be done. Nishino decided and then shouted.

"All of you! Plan number 4! We'll survive no matter what!"

"Huh!?" "Really? 4...?" "Is he serious..." "Hey, hey! Wait for a second, I didn't hear about any plan 4?" "Neither have I! What plan is that?" "Does he have some trump card?"

The opinions of those who heard him divided cleanly into two. In other words, the students and refugees. Nishino had different plans that had numbers from 1 to 4. And Plan #4 was the one that took into account the worst possible situation.

In other words— 'Leave the refugees as bait and run.'

Of course, the only people that knew of this plan were the students. The refugees had no idea. The students knew the meaning of his words, and their faces darkened. The refugees didn't understand, but they had a small hope that Nishino would think of something.

"We will slowly retreat into the store while continuing to defend! The plan will be put into effect once the orcs get inside! The back exit and the windows! Do it!"

"Understood."

Rikka nodded without hesitation. The other students looked less enthusiastic.

"You guys! We'll die if this continues! We must survive this! Isn't that right?"

"...!" "...!" "...!"

Upon hearing Nishino's shout, the students made their decision. The refugees didn't understand it, but they could do nothing but follow orders. (...Yes, we cannot allow ourselves to be killed. Not here, never...!)

Their desperate plan was about to begin. A plan to sacrifice the others so that they can live.

At the same time—.

That 'bad feeling' was getting stronger... We were carefully navigating through the town in order to avoid any encounters with the pack of orcs or shadow wolves. Goblins would have been manageable, but fighting monsters of the orc or shadow wolf class were impossible at my current level. Not to mention, there was a high orc among the orc pack. I was lucky to get away the last time, but I didn't think it would happen again. I could not allow myself to encounter them.

"Position-wise, we are right between the two packs right now..."

And both groups had monsters with a keen sense of smell. It was the worst combination. So, what was I to do in order to get through this...? I wonder as I look up at the sky. It was dark and clouded. A drop of water falls on my nose.

"...Looks like it's going to rain again..."

It's been raining a lot lately. I wanted to make as much distance between me and the monsters as possible before it really started to pour. For now, I would just go in a direction where I didn't get 'a bad feeling' from. I wanted to fight as little as possible for now.

"...Hmm?"

I look up and see a black pillar of smoke rising in the distance. A fire? Judging from the amount of smoke, it was on a pretty large scale.

Wasn't that the direction that the home center was in? It was also the direction where the orcs were headed. Could it be...

It started to bug me, and so I decided to write to Ichinose about it. Maybe she would be able to get a good view from the top of her apartment building. I open the Mail window. There was 1 Unread message. Judging by the time it was received, it was sent just a minute ago. I open it and read the contents.

'It looks like there has been a fire at the home center. It is where the orc pack was headed, so I think there is a strong likelihood that they were fighting with the refugees in the home center. The orcs seem to be actively hunting down humans, so we must be careful. Also, about joining your party, have you not reached a decision yet? Hope to hear from you soon.'

She was fast! I was just about to ask her, but she answered me first. This girl. And she was really rushing things with this party business. She was really determined...

In any case... The smoke really was from the home center. And they had fought against the orcs. May they rest in peace. That's all I can say.

"I do hope that they somehow escapes..."

Not that I had any time to worry about others now. I avoided the direction that was giving me a 'bad feeling' and continued to move. The rain got worse as we went on, and so Aka turned into a raincoat for me.

"...Mmm?"

As we walked in the rain, Scout started reacting to something. It wasn't a monster, but humans. Two of them. The place...a nearby park. It was rare to encounter people walking about. Most people stayed indoors. I couldn't help but feel curious, and so I headed in the direction that Scout indicated. And as I got closer, something started to bother me. That's weird... These people haven't moved at all ever since I detected them. What did that mean?

I reached the place that they were. It was a small park with only a swing and a bench. The people were in a corner in the park, trying to hide in the bushes.

"There..."

I hide in the shadow of a building and inspect them. They looked familiar. Students. One of them was Nishino. The other was the female student with the side ponytail. Her name....Ri...something? Oh, whatever. It wasn't important. What was important was the state that they were in.

"...They're a mess."

I could tell even from this distance. Especially the girl, she was bleeding quite a bit. It looked really bad. Had they escaped from the orc ambush? All of a sudden, Nishino looked directly towards me.

“...Is someone there?”

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Chapter 50

Source: Chronicles of Chaos

Report

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Overflowing with monster

“Someone..... there.....”

With unfocused eyes, Nishino extended his hand towards me. What do I do.....? Should I go? I don't feel any monster presence nearby. I also don't feel any human presence or somebody is watching. But..... but—

“Woof.”

Ah, Momo?! While I was pondering, Momo appeared before them. Seeing that, Nishino's expression got dim.

“....Dog? Hmm, you are.....? Ughh, please..... someone, anyone..... a person—”

He couldn't finish. It seems like he lost consciousness. Momo slowly approached him. And after getting close and sniffing them, he looked at me.

“Woof.”

Are you saying it's fine to come out? I guess I have no choice.....

“Aka... add the hood.”

“.....(shake-shake)”

The raincoat I am wearing right now are the clothes Aka mimicked. And because of that, we can change different parts. The hood Aka added with mimic covered my eyes. Just in case. Let's make it so that he can't see my face. I also took out the 'rucksack' from the item box and carried it on my back. And for what it matters, I also put inappropriate amount of things in it to make it look full. This should do. My appearance is completely that of a refugee. I made up my mind and headed towards Nishino and the others.

“.....He's out completely.”

I tried shaking Nishino and the other girl but they didn't react at all. Parts of their clothes were burnt black and blood was flowing out. Nishino had a lot of scratches and cuts. The girl's condition was even worse. A part of her cloth was completely stained red with blood. As I thought, they probably had a fight with orcs. Even still, they did a good job running away after encountering that high orc.

“Woof.”

Momo was pulling on my sleeve. Feels like he is asking me to save them quickly. Save them, eh.....

“....But, there's next to nothing I can do, ya know?”

I have never even applied first-aid treatment. The stuff I do know is of no importance at all. Stuff like carrying them to a nearby empty house so that they don't get wet in the rain. Momo just intently looked at me as I worried. "....Hey, Momo, would you hate me if I were to abandon these guys here?" And suddenly, I ended up saying that. In the end, it seems somewhere in my heart, I probably still can't trust others. Or I might just be scared of them knowing about the existence of the item box and about the food supply. It's also the same with Ichinose. Even while wanting allies, they can't step out of their comfort zone.

"....Woof."

Momo appeared to be pondering a bit and then came close and snuggled up to me. As if to tell me that it's okay, that he will stay with me forever. I see..... I am glad. I am relieved. And so,

"....Alright then."

I shifted the rucksack to the front and carried Nishino. ....Uwoh, humans are surprisingly heavy, huh? It would have been totally impossible if my status hadn't gone up.

"Looks like two people at once is not possible for me. I gotta carry them one by one."

"Woof.....?"

I shifted my gaze towards Momo, who looked confused.

"For now, I will carry them into that house. That should be good enough, right, Momo?"

"...! .....Woof!"

Momo kept swinging his tail. And he also went circles around me like that. Looks like he's really happy. Well, I guess I have no choice... Can't afford to be hated by Momo. I carried Nishino and the girl to the empty house nearby.

I laid them down inside the house. For now, I should take off their wet clothes—It doesn't come off?! It seems that the clothes got too stuck to them because of the rain, which made it hard to take off. ....I guess I should also wipe off the water with a towel.

"Ah, right, I should stop the bleeding..."

Nishino was still alright but the girl must have bled out a lot. Putting on the bandage..... ah, no, sterilizing comes first, huh? For now, let's look at the wound.

".....Hmm?"

When I looked at the wound, the bleeding had already stopped. I thought the wound was pretty deep from the amount of blood the clothes soaked in.

"....What's up with this?"

No matter how you think of it, isn't the wound healing too fast? Does this girl perhaps have such a skill? 'HP recovery'? No, maybe 'Self-recovery' or 'Self-regenerate'? Either way, although she looks bad, it doesn't seem like she will die right away. That's good.

Ah, but, for what it matters, I should sterilize and bandage it. Now, all that's left is to put a blanket on them so that they don't get cold and leave some extra bandage, ointment, vitamin drinks and stuff in a sack.

This should be enough. Or rather, I can't do anything more since I don't know how to.

"This should be enough, right, Momo?"

"Woof!"

Seems like Momo is also satisfied. Now then, I guess I will move away before the two wake up.

When I got out, the rain had already stopped. The clouds cleared and sunlight came peeking through from behind the clouds. Was it just a shower? It had already diminished when I was carrying them in.

"....I should better get moving."

To my surprise, quite a bit of time had passed. But judging from the fact that Nishino came running from the home center, the orcs might be around there now. Then, inversely, they should be short in hands at the shopping mall area. I would probably be good to break through there and head towards the city center.

Or rather, at present, there are no other routes which will allow me to avoid the shadow wolves and the orcs.

That would mean I have to pass by close to Ichinose's house but that shouldn't be a problem, I guess. I mean, I would probably not be shot, after all. Rather, wouldn't it be better for her to run as well? It is certainly true that that high-rise mansion is the perfect place to aim all throughout the city but unfortunately, the monsters' threat has come very close.

"I guess I will mail her saying that it would be best to run..."

There are a lot of things which feel dangerous about her but I would have an uneasy conscience if she were to die.

"Hmm.....?"

When I opened the mail app, there weren't any unread emails. Hmm? I definitely thought she would be sending some sort of emails... I wonder if she is resting? While feeling a sense of discomfort, I sent the mail.

".....Nn?"

And suddenly, when I looked towards the mansion, I had this uncomfortable feeling. What is it? Weird. I just had a 'bad feeling' from the mansion. That too at a level way more than that of shadow wolves.

"What is going on?"

When I looked closely, I felt like I spotted something on the upper floors. Is it Ichinose? No, it is not. And just when I tried using 'far sight' it was at that moment.

With a tremendous noise, a part of the mansion's rooftop collapsed.

"Wha?!"

What? What just happened? A huge part of the roof just fell off. A cloud of dust went up and a single monster came out from it with an air of composure.

“—-Ah”

The being projected in my eyes. Even from afar, with ‘farsight’, I could see “its” figure clearly.

“High orc...”

One tanned orc stood on top of the high-rise mansion with a daunting stance. Why.....? Why, why are you there? Weren't you at the home center? I looked towards the home center. I had a 'bad feeling'. But, it wasn't as 'strong' as before..... it had weakened. Just about as much I felt with the shadow wolves.

“Ah.....”

It can't be—it can't be.....

And suddenly, the worst possible scenario came up in my head.

Buildings all around from which one can have an overhead view. The perfect position to spy one's prey.

Why did I think that only humans would use that point?

If only that one orc realized that position's advantage and separated from the flock to search its next prey efficiently—. And if it had its eyes on that high-rise mansion for that—.

Is Ichinose alright? Or is she.....

The high orc slowly looked around the surrounding from the roof—and then,

“——ah”

Our eyes met. I wonder if this is what they call getting goosebumps all over your body.

Even though we are this far apart.

The high orc's gaze was clearly pointed towards me.

Looking at me, it sneered. As if it was enjoying to its fullest. As if to say 'we finally meet'.

“\_\_\_\_\_”

[illegible]

—it's scream, echoed.

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## Chapter 51

Source: Chronicles of Chaos

## Report

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Crap. Crap, crap. Crap, crap, crap, crap.

“Momo!”

“Woof!”

As I shouted towards him, Momo immediately took refuge in the 'shadow'. And at that very moment, I ran out at full speed.

Run. Run. Run!

As far as I can. I need to get as far as I can, even if it's just a step.

"Hahh, hahh, hahh, haa.....!"

I ran with all my strength. Probably the most frantically I have ever ran in my whole life.

Extent of skill increased Flight LVL has increased from 1 to 2

Extent of skill increased Flight LVL has increased from 2 to 3

Extent of skill increased Flight LVL has increased from 3 to 4

Extent of skill increased Fear Tolerance LVL has increased from 5 to 6

The heavenly voice resounded within my head. I would normally be happy if my skills leveled up but, at the moment, I am not happy at all.

But maybe because my 'Flight' LVL increased, I felt like I was able to run even faster than before. As I thought, this skill seems to be a skill to adjust the speed while running.

I could increase my speed more and more. And increase the distance between us more and more.

But, it still didn't disappear.

'Bad feeling' did not disappear. 'Sense of danger' had always been ringing.

'Enemy detection' was also reacting all the time.

"Haaa, haa, hahh....."

I looked at it with a back glance while running. The high orc still hadn't moved from the mansion's roof. I wonder if it won't just stay like that? I ended up wishing that.

However, such a faint expectation was also betrayed. Suddenly, the high orc bent its knees. What-what is that posture? As if it was storing energy before jumping—.

**Shivers** I felt an intense chill.

Outcry. Thunderous roar. Impact. Destroying the roof of the mansion, the high orc leaped. It's huge body shot out like a bullet. Its speed was tremendous. Even before the debris hit the ground, the high orc landed on the ground.

**Thud!!!!**

The impact was like that of a meteor hitting the ground. And when I looked back to see, he was at the place where I had been standing just a while ago. And with him on the center, a crater formed.

.....You're kidding me, right? It closed that gap with one leap? Exactly what kind of muscles does it have?! Don't bullshit me!

"There's a limit to being absurd.....!"

I am no match. I felt that instantly. But even then, I ran. To increase the distance, even if just a bit.

"Goaa....."

The high orc snapped its neck and looked my way. Stop it, don't look. Don't come here. You let me go last time, right? Let me go this time too. Come on. But, such a prayer did not reach. The high orc came straight at me with a beheading knife. I will die if it catches up. A hellish game of tag had begun.





And with that scream, the orc grabbed the heavy equipment and threw it at me. With ease, as if it just threw a ball. And with terrific speed. Overwhelming mass came closing in. It had filled up my line of sight. —I can't dodge.

“~~~~~!! (shake-shake-shake)”

And the very next moment, there were hollow sounds. Aka expanded the mimicked body to its fullest. It covered up my body and transformed like a ball. And the moment the heavy equipment clashed with Aka's body, which was covering me, their momentum was cancelled out. And like that, we flew backwards, bouncing like a ball. While colliding with the ground and walls, Aka leaped three dimensionally. My brain kept shaking.

I wonder how much I bounced? At last, the momentum died out. Aka mimicked back to the previous cloth.

“.....Uuugh.....”

Holding my mouth, I desperately tried to resist the dizziness and the feeling to throw up.

“Th-thank you, Aka.....”

But, that was nice. Even 'Evade' or 'Item Box' didn't make it in time. If Aka didn't transform, I would have been crushed by now.

“Haaa..... haa.....”

I looked up front with my swaying vision. The high orc was there. It slowly approached this way.

I looked around the place. A parking lot. Which one?

When I shifted my gaze around a bit, I spotted a crushed helicopter behind the high orc. I see..... so this is the shopping mall. What is this karma?

After desperately running around, the place I finally come to is the place where I met it to begin with.

“Haa..... haa.....”

There were no other orcs. There were cracks in several places around the parking lot and parts of the buildings around were also collapsing.

The high orc had a daunting stance with the beheading knife.

As if it was saying that it won't let me escape anymore.

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Chapter 52

Source: Chronicles of Chaos

Report

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Such a doubt entered my head suddenly. I desperately ran, terrified to death, and had to encounter this monster on top of that. Did I really do something that bad that I have to be forced into a situation like this? The world is unreasonable. Seriously.

“Haa..... haha, hahahaha.....”

It's weird. Even though this situation is not the least funny, I can't help but laugh. My tears fell and knees shook.

The high orc came closer, one step at a time. It felt like the distance between me and him was my remaining time alive.

And suddenly, my eyes met the high orc's.

He was sneering. What's with that? Are you having that much fun just by killing me? Don't give me that shit. I don't wanna die. I don't wanna die, I don't wanna die, I don't wanna die!

".....! D-don't come any closeerrrrr!!"

I started throwing anything I could find in the item box towards it. Machine guns, big boulders, earth, broken vehicle, refrigerator, washing machine, plastic bottles, tabasco bottles, food, fruits-everything.

"Goaa....."

The high orc irritably pushed those aside. As if it was shooing away insects or something. As if it was kicking away a pebble. Don't give me that shit. How can a boulder be broken with such little movement? How can a vehicle be kicked away like a soccer ball? He dodged the other balls and crushed the fruits on the ground.

Everything it did was utter nonsense. Power befitting of that size.

Unbalanced extreme speed on top of that, as well. It was just too overwhelming, it was on a completely different level. And before I realized, it had crossed in front of me.

"Goaa....."

The high orc gave a big grin. As if its eyes were saying 'what will you throw at me next?'. At that moment, there was a loud sound.

"Gaahh.....?!"

Only after I was blown away by the punch and fell to the ground did I realize that it was the high orc's punch. With just that, I was blown meters away. I fell and rolled on the ground.

"Uuu..... ahh... it hurts....."

It hurts. If Aka hadn't acted as a cushion, my bones would have probably been broken by now. It has been long since I felt 'pain'. Now that I think about it, even in monster fights, which I rarely did, I never got wounded. It hurts this much from just one blow? I wonder how much it would hurt to have a bone fracture or to be cut... Ha, hahaha.....

"S-save me....."

Before I realized, I was pleading for help.

"Someone, anyone..... save me....."

Tears came running down. I am scared. My body won't move.

Fear of the monsters. The high orc's overwhelming strength was more than enough to curve in despair within me.

"Someoneeeeeeeeeeeee!! Is no one thereeee?! I will get killed at this rate!

Please! Anyone! Saaaaveee meeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!!"

I desperately screamed out. I let go of everything and disgracefully screamed.

But—there was no reply.

Just silence. Silence fell on the shopping mall's parking lot. No one answered my call. No one—

“—Woof!”

“.....eh?”

Momo came out from my shadow. He came and stood beside me and looked straight at the high orc.

“Uuuu.....! Woof! Woof!”

Momo barked at the high orc. Why, Momo.....? Are you, not scared...?

.....No, that's not it. When I looked closely, I noticed Momo's body shaking. Momo was also scared. But, he was desperately trying to press down that fear.

“St-stop it, Momo! That's enough, at least you should run aw—ow?!”

Momo got close to me and bit my hand. Wh-what are you doing, Momo?!”

“.....Woof.”

And then, he licked my face.

“Momo.....?”

“Woof.....”

And after giving a sad bark, he faced forward. What are you doing, Momo? Stop it. Run.

“Uuuuu..... Grrrrrrrr!!”

Momo ran. He turned his back on me, and ran towards the high orc.

“Goaa..... AaaaaaaaaAAAAAooooooooooooooooohhh!!”

The high orc approached Momo with a grin. ‘Shadows’ extended from underneath Momo. And it transformed into a spear and attacked the high orc.

“Gaaaaaa!”

But, it did not work. The spear which attacked the high orc's skin was only able to scratch it. Warding off the spear, the high orc kicked the ground and leaped at Momo.

“Gooooaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhh!!!!”

The high orc's roar shook the atmosphere. I was saved because of Aka's expanded body. Even though the ‘shadow’ was defending, Momo was blown away. He fell to the ground and rolled.

“Uu.....”

Resisting the pain, he still stood up. And dashed through the surface. Stop it, just stop it already...

“Grrrr!!”

He bit into the high orc's arm. He desperately tried to bite in but his fangs won't pierce through. The high orc glared at Momo, annoyed, as he wasn't letting go even as the high orc swung its arms. And suddenly, he raised his cleaver with his other hand.

—Stop. If you slash him with something like that—Momo will die.

“Gooooaaaaaaaaahhh!!!”

The blade drew near Momo.

“Stooooooooopppppppp iiiittttt!!!”

I threw some block pieces in between Momo and the high orc and created a small ‘wall’. And with the help of the ‘wall’, Momo and the high orc were forcibly detached.

And before I realized, I had started running, bearing the pain. I jumped and caught Momo before he fell to the ground and tumbled on.

“You idiot! Do you want to die, Momo?!”

I yelled at Momo, who was now in my arms.

“Woof.....”

Even though he was being yelled at, Momo happily licked my cheeks. As if he had believed I would come to rescue him.

Why..... Why... why do you believe in me so much? How can you try so hard for me...? Even though you were shaking with fear. Even though you could have died.

“Why... Momo...?”

“.....Woof!”

As if he was saying ‘isn’t it only natural?’. I see... I see... So that’s natural for Momo, eh?

“Ah, I see..... I got it.”

I hugged Momo and slowly let him down. And then, I stood up and brought out the ‘orcs knife’. And glared at high orc with all my might. I had strengthened my resolve.

Proficiency has increased Fear Resistance has leveled up to 7 from 6

Proficiency has increased Fear Resistance has leveled up to 8 from 7

A close fear of death. What about it? Get over it.

If I don’t stand up here, Momo will die. I will also die. Aka will also die.

If so, then I could at least struggle. Live, even if it’s a moment longer.

My heartbeat increased and I took in more shallow breaths.

Think. How to break through this situation?

Think. How to survive?

Think. How to defeat this bastard?

Look. At it, the high orc.

Remember. The fight till now, the movements till now. All of it.

Proficiency has increased Observation has leveled up to 8 from 7

Proficiency has increased Observation has leveled up to 9 from 8

We met at the shopping mall. The escape started there. All the movements leading to this point. My skill, level, item box, Momo, Aka. The self-defense force’s fight, guns, line of sight, goblin, washing machine, affinity, shadow wolf, lesser wolf, mimic, zombie, magic stone, howling, home center, fire, Nishino-kun, high school girl, Ichinose-san, sniping, high-rise building, mail, game of tag, obstacles, screams, movements, line of sight, weird feeling—remember, remember everything.



Party members Momo- Assassin dog LVL 2

Aka- Red slime LVL 7

My HP has decreased. Probably by that blow from the high orc before. With just a punch, he took almost 20% of my health. I will definitely die if I take a proper hit.

"But..... I have no other choice....."

Our current skill and strength. If we don't use all of it, we can't win against this. I took stance and glared at the high orc. First, we need to make sure of something.

"Let's gooooooooooooo!!!"

I ran while shouting. The high orc felt my determination and grinned. An atrocious grin with ecstasy.

"OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!"

Without any hesitation, we advanced forward. High orc's cleaver closed in in front of my eyes. 'Danger detection' and 'hostility detection' were giving out warnings like crazy. Scary, scary! But don't avert your eyes! 'Observe' it! It's movements! The blade's course! Use 'swordsmanship' and 'defensive instinct' freely and 'turn away' the blade.

"Uuuuooooooooooooohhh!"

And with a loud noise, the high orc's cleaver cut through the air and pierced into the ground. I did it. I was somehow able to avert the attack.

"?!"

The high orc's eyes opened wide. Surprise, fright. And the slight gap in the high orc's attention obstructed its movements.

This is where it starts. I brought out a 'thing' from the item box and threw it at him. A throw from close range. Now then, what will you do?

"Gooooooooaaaaahh!"

The high orc screamed and then 'dodged'. He twisted his body forcibly and pulled out the cleaver from the ground. And within that time, I took some distance away from it.

"As I thought... I see..."

Observing his movements, I confirmed that my prediction was correct. The 'weird feeling' took shape. It was worth confirming even with the risk. I glanced at the high orc from the distance.

"I thought of it as strange to begin with."

"Goaaa....."

I don't know if my words are getting through to him. However, the high orc was listening to me.

"Why, at that time, you let us go....."

I muttered. As if I were explaining it to Momo and Aka. As if I were confirming it with myself.

"You were actively hunting humans. You killed everyone here, from the ones barricading themselves to the self-defense squad. If so, then isn't it strange? Why were they killed but we were let go? Why were we able to survive?"

As I spoke of it myself, I clearly understood how unnatural it was. I didn't think much of it since I was saved but it was weird when I thought about it properly.

"And it's not just us. Even Nishino-kun and the others."

They also encountered the high orc's attack but survived. At first, I thought it was just this guy's whim. I thought that we weren't good enough of an opponent to face seriously.

"But, I was wrong. It wasn't a whim of yours."

There was a reason behind it. The reason why he let us go—no, why he had to let us go.

I threw that towards the high orc's head. Not just one, several, and more. As high as I could, as wide as I could, to the limits of the item box. He would evade it otherwise.

"This is—"

I pointed my index finger towards the sky. Being drawn in, the high orc also looked up. At that moment—his expression changed. He immediately tried to run but he wouldn't make it.

"The answer."

And within milliseconds, 'that' rained down on the high orc and me. Cold water made me wet. The 'thing' I threw up in the air was water. Dozens of plastic bottles I had stored up. When I throw them up in the sky with the lids open, they instantly become 'rain'.

"Guuooo..... Oooooooooooooohhh!!"

The effect was immediate. Being drenched in water, the high orc started suffering, with smoke coming out from its body. And along with the water, a huge number of plastic bottles also fell to the ground.

This is the reason why the high orc let Nishino-kun and me go.

Just like how slimes are weak against fire but strong against physical attacks. Just like how shadow wolves have weak physical defense but are very agile. Even orcs have weak points.

"Who would have thought that for orcs, it is water."

I realized from the little skirmish we had before. The time when I was throwing stuff at random at it from the item box. He easily destroyed vehicles and even boulders but was 'dodging' the plastic bottles for some reason. Why would he dodge something he had no reason to dodge?

That was the 'weird feeling' I got. The moment I had that feeling, the doubt within was cleared.

Why were we let go? How did Nishino-kun run away? It isn't because we are weak or because he couldn't smell us because of the rain.

He just simply didn't want to get wet in the rain.

To confirm that, the moment I dodged his blade, I threw a plastic bottle at him. To dodge something like that, which doesn't even act as a weapon, he went as far as to lose his balance.

I was sure of it by then. His weak point is water.



And the result of that, is this. But..... I didn't think it would affect him this much. Due to the impromptu 'rain', the high orc's skin inflamed, as if sulfuric acid was poured on to it. In contrast to having immense strength and tough muscles, it takes damage just by touching water-an extreme species. That is the monster called orc.

“Momo, now!”

“Woof!”

An opportunity. Don't let this go! Momo used 'shadow' and I kept using the mass attack of the item box on the high orc.

“Guuuoooooooo?!”

Momo's 'shadow spear' stabbed into his body this time, making him shriek in pain. Looks like his defensive abilities also decrease when it's wet.

I made the 'rain' once again with the plastic bottles. The high orc screamed in pain. Steam was coming out from his entire body and he was even bleeding from parts. But, even still—

“.....! are you serious... this bastard.....!”

The high orc laughed. As if it was having the most fun. As if this was the kind of situation he was asking for.

“——AAaaaaaaaooooooooohhhhhhhhhhh!!”

High orc screamed once again. And in the next moment, his body transformed. Its brown skin turned dark red. The dark portions of its eyes turned red and the white portions turned dark.

"This is..... don't tell me?!"

I have seen a similar state. The high school girl with Nishino-kun—it is the same as the form she had when she was fighting.

“You have ‘maddening’.....?!”

I don't know the details but it is probably a skill which strengthens one's body. What an absurd monster. Even though he's as strong as already he is, he has even more strength. After using 'maddening', the high orc came running at me straight.

Fast—?!

“Gaa.....!?”

I couldn't see it at all. Before I realized, I was blown away. If Aka didn't absorb the impact, I would have probably died from that.

“OoOoOoOoOoOoHHH!”

Oi, wait. How are you able to catch up to me even though I was blown away?! I barely saw the high orc's fist thrusting out.

“ ..... ! ! ”

Aka expanded once again and wrapped up his fist. But it seems like he was unable to absorb all the impact. And poof, Aka's mimic wore off and his real body floated on the sky. And I received the portion of the attack Aka couldn't take.

"Guuuuuuuaaaahhhh!"

Intense pain, as if my internal organs were being stirred up. This is bad, my consciousness is fading. Persist, persist! I was barely able to hold my

consciousness and made a wall with the item box immediately. Even though my body was more or less numb due to the impact, I tried to retreat at once. "Guuooohh!"

However, the wall was broken and the distance between us was closed in an instant. I could see the high orc's atrocious expression through my teary vision.

Don't run, fight, let me have more and more fun.

As if it was saying something like that. You monster! While cursing at it in my heart, I swung the orc's blade towards it. A high pitched sound reverberated. The orc's blade was easily deflected.

"Tch....."

This is bad, this is bad..... this is bad!

My stance is broken, I can't evade. Item box too—no good. In this distance, I will be chopped off along with the wall.

Momo's shadow won't make it in time either. He was too far away.

It also looks like Aka had his hands full trying to bring back his form. I could see my HP.

12/100.

My HP had almost run out from that one attack. The auto regen won't make it in time. If I take another hit now—

The high orc's face distorted into a grin. It was an expression convinced of victory. Ah, damn it. I thought I went quite far too..... Death closed in. And at that moment, I heard a noise.

"Gooaaaaa?!"

"Eh?"

What? What happened? The high orc was pressing his hand against his right eye and was in agony. That just now—a gunshot?

Taken aback, I turned to look at a building slightly far away. There was a human silhouette there. A girl of a small build. She had a huge gun in her hands.

"Don't tell me..... Ichinose-san?"

As if reacting to my mutters, she held out her thumb and looked at me. So you were alive..... I am glad. She was also quite wounded but it seems like she was at least alive.

I had questions like why she came back but for now, I am saved. I should send a mail to her later.

But, before that. Don't let this opportunity she made go away.

"Take this!"

I made it 'rain'. I didn't have anymore plastic bottles. This is the last rain. The downpouring rain wounded the high orc's body without mercy.

—Go down.

"OOoooooOOHH!!"

The high orc screamed. With a terrific look on his face, he dashed at me. Even at this situation, he doesn't know the word 'retreat'.

"Grrrrrrrrrr!!"

Momo roared. The 'shadow spear' stabbed into the high orc without mercy. Even then, the high orc's momentum didn't decrease.

"This.....!"

I threw the remaining mass in the item box. Vehicles, boulders, lumber. Unlike before, all these were now clearly damaging the high orc. Just fall.

"OOOOOOOOAAAAAAAAAAAA!!"

His screams reverberated. The intimidating aura of the high orc as it drew closer was dreadful. Exactly what you would call a wounded beast's force when it's prepared to die. But even still, he is probably enjoying this situation to the fullest. The grin on his face hasn't disappeared.

—Fighting is everything.

The last block hit his body. His body was already very wounded and skin was now falling apart. He was closing in. At the end, just a small knife was left in my hand. It was the first weapon I took when I went outside. I gripped the knife—the knife which I had used over and over, which had rust all over it now.

"Uuuuuwaaaaaaaahhh!!"

And with the scream, I squeezed out the remaining bit of energy I had left. Reinforced agility. And 'vitals stab'. And barely, before the high orc swung his blade, my knife had pierced through his heart. The high orc's cleaver fell to the ground.

Die!

I twisted the blade. The knife easily broke.

The high orc roared. It was surely his death scream.

The moment he was falling, our eyes met.

—Well done.

I felt like that was what he was saying. The high orc's body dispersed, leaving a big fat magic stone there.

For a moment there, I felt the time had stopped. Silence. My heart's beating, rough breathing.

"Did we..... win?"

As if to answer my question, a voice echoed in my head.

Experience points earned Experience points have reached a certain point

Kudou Kazuto-LVL increased from 13 to 14

Experience points have reached a certain point Kudou Kazuto-LVL increased from 14 to 15

Experience points have reached a certain point Kudou Kazuto-LVL increased from 15 to 16

Named monster-Leuven-subjugated Subjugation bonus will be given

—

"Haha..... we... we did it... Mo... mo.....—"

Without being able to listen to the voice till the end, I collapsed. I survived. I was able to survive. Maybe because of the exhaustion and tension, my consciousness slipped deep into the darkness.

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Chapter 54  
Source: Chronicles of Chaos  
Report

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That day, after doing overtime, I was returning to my run-down apartment. When I parked the car in the parking lot, I could hear a small cry. Wondering what it was, I got close and found one small, stray puppy. He was probably still a baby. His body was alarmingly small. A weak, feeble cry. When I saw the puppy, I wrapped it around my arms and calmed it down.

Pets are forbidden in this apartment. I can't do anything irresponsible. But, I did end up finding it. I can't help feeling attached, can I?

I beamed at the shaking, anxious puppy. To make it relax, as much as I can. The puppy looked at me with curious eyes.

Your name is—

“.....Hmm?”

I woke up. I could see an endless, blue sky expand out into the horizon. My consciousness slowly came together.

Ah, right. I was... did I faint after the fight with the high orc ended?

“Why was I having a dream of that time—”

“Woof!”

I could hear a cry. Right beside me, Momo was in sitting posture, looking at me.

“Momo.....?”

“Woof!”

Maybe he was really relieved to see me wake up, Momo came nuzzling against me. He continued to lick my face.

“Sorry, to make you worry.”

Aka was also there, beside Momo. He slowly moved towards me. Seems like both of them are fine.

“We survived, huh.....?”

That reality came hitting me once again. It wouldn't have been weird at all if we were to die any moment there. That's how dangerous of a monster that high orc was. I felt goosebumps remembering his dreadfulness.

“Hmmm? Now that I think about it—”

I checked my body. There's no pain. My wounds have..... healed? My clothes are still torn but my wounds have closed up. How? Is this the effect of auto-regen.....? Or is it that 'someone' healed me? Someone..... the only person that comes to mind is—

Ichinose-san.....?

I opened up my mail app. There were about 80 unread mails. Eh.....

While feeling a chill run down my spine, I looked through the contents of the mails and they were just what I expected. After the battle, she dashed

here and used her skill to heal me. It also said how she patted Momo after that. And that his hair was really nice. And that she was very satisfied. She also wrote about how she left this place to Momo and Aka after healing my wounds. The reason she left was simple—it is nerve wracking for her to talk to people directly. What's with that.....

But, she saved me. I should say thank you by mail. A reply came immediately.

I couldn't help but give a bitter smile reading that. Really, this person doesn't change, huh?

But, it is true. I should probably reply.

"Momo, Aka....."

I asked the two.

"I want to add Ichinose-san to the party. Is that okay?"

This time, I would have died without her help. Even before that, if she hadn't informed me about the home center, I wouldn't have realized the high orc's weakness. This much is enough. I don't need to be stubborn. It should be fine to trust her.

"Woof!"

"....(wobble, wobble)"

Both of them agreed. Thanks, guys.

Then, I will add her as a party member..... wait, how do you request to be a in a party through mail again? I tried searching it up but couldn't find anything relevant.

"Is it that..... it is impossible unless we meet directly?"

Now that I think about it, even in Momo or Aka's time, the party request was only available when they were visible. If that's also the case when the other person is a human, there's a need to meet Ichinose-san. And so, I mailed that to her. A reply came back immediately. This was written in it: Preparations? Preparations for what? I tried asking.

I couldn't help but laugh a little. What an interesting person.

For now, Ichinose-san said she needed a day. I also agreed and closed the mail app.

"Now then....."

I stood up and stretched. I guess I will enter the shopping mall for the time being. I want to check the skills and stats I got after leveling up and there's also the checking of magic stones and what not. I ended up using most of the stuff I stored in this battle so I need to start refilling again. There's a lot of things that need to be done.

"Well then, shall we go?"

"Woof!"

"....(Wobble, wobble)"

We are alive. And, we will also survive from now on.

In this—world overflowing with monster.

With renewed resolve, we started walking once again.

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Chapter 55  
Source: Chronicles of Chaos  
Report

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The World Is Overflowing with Monster, I'm Taking a Liking to This Life 55  
During the Interlude

“...Hm?”

Rikka's eyes opened in the dimly lit room. Her body ached all over.

“Huh...? Where am I?”

She was covered by a blanket. Blanket? But why? She held her head and slowly sat up.

“Hmm...?”

Why was she in this situation? Rikka thought about all the things that had happened. Yes, the home center had been attacked by a group of orcs. There had been little hope of winning, so Rikka and the others had set fire to the building. They had left the refugees as bait and ran away. It was a pretty low method, but she believed it was the only way to survive. After that, she and Nishino had dragged their wounded bodies in the rain and arrived in a park that was a short distance away. And then—.

“...What had happened?”

She couldn't remember anything after that. Her memories of fighting were always vague because of her 'skill,' but it was especially bad this time. Her memories were lost in fragments, and her body was in tatters. Even her side ponytail, which she was proud of, was ruined.

“—Are you up then?”

A voice rang. She turned and saw that it was Nishino who looked at her while sitting on a chair.

“...Nisshi?”

“Do I look like anyone else?”

“Hmm. A ghost?”

“Don't kill me off just yet. I'm still alive. See, I have legs.”

“Haha. You sure do.”

Rikka's somewhat odd aura always made Nishino laugh.

“So, where is this place? I only remember running away with you and reaching some park...”

“It's the same with me. I was here when I woke up. ...It seems like someone carried us here.”

“Someone?”

“Yeah. I don't know who it was.”

Nishino's last memory was also of arriving at the park in the rain. He felt like he met someone after that, but he could not remember who.

(Actually, was it even a person...? A dog? No, I'm not sure...)

In any case, they didn't know who it was, but they were saved. Not only that, but there were bandages, medicine and health drinks left there as well. It was so thorough, that it made them more suspicious, if anything. He gave Rikka a health drink. Rikka drank it in one gulp.

"But I think we should be thankful that we were saved for now. Luckily it seems like no monsters have chased us either."

"That's true. Also, does that mean that that person applied these bandages?"

Rikka lifted her skirt and saw the sloppily applied bandages. Nishino looked away.

"...You should care about others a little, you idiot."

"Hm? Did you say something, Nisshi?"

"...Nothing."

His cheeks were a little red. Nishino continued as if to change the subject.

"We need to think about what to do next..."

"What to do...aren't we going to look for the others?"

"But how? We can't use our phones now. It'll be close to impossible, you know?"

They had no way to get in contact. They would have to slowly look for them on foot. And this was a world full of dangerous monsters. It would be a different story if they had a 'skill' that allowed them to contact each other, but neither Nishino or Rikka had such a convenient skill

"So, what should we do?"

"We'll move as planned. To the school. If things go well, we may meet up with the others there as well."

"Ughh..."

'School.' Rikka scowled as soon as she heard the word.

"Uh, Nisshi. Why not any other public building?"

"The school is closer. Isn't that more efficient?"

"..."

"I know what you are thinking. But right now...:"

"I understand."

Rikka puffed up her cheeks in annoyance. She hated school. The school had robbed her of her precious friends. She only had bad memories of that place. But they had no choice but to go now. Rikka forced herself to see it that way.

"I hope that Shibbacha and Ono are okay..."

"I'm sure they are alive. Ono and Shibata and the others. So we have to believe and keep moving."

"...You're right."

Rikka thought about her new friends and smiled sadly.

"Well then, we should go. I wish we could rest longer, but time is money."

"Understood."

They were headed for their school in the center of the city. They decided to keep moving and believe that the others were alive.

And—.

You have acquired EXP points Ono Keita has gone from LV4 to LV5  
You have met the requirements You have acquired the skill, 'Kindred Killer'  
The voice rang in his head. Ono, the student who wore glasses, was shaking. His eyes couldn't focus, and his lips were dry.

"Hah hah hah...n-no...it wasn't on purpose. I...I wasn't trying to..."

He mumbled in denial. He looked at the things that rolled in front of him. They were wearing student clothes just like him. There were three in all. They didn't move. There was no light in their eyes. There was a red puddle. It was getting bigger.

"Ye-yes. It was all their fault... They didn't listen to my warning and moved on their own... I, I told them to run away...!"

After escaping the home center, he wandered through the city without anywhere to go. As he became wet under the rain during his search for Nishino and Shibata, he reunited with the students he had abandoned. — Yes, they were safe. Ono was happy to see them, but they did not share his happiness. The moment they saw him, they came at him like demons.

"How dare you hate me for it... What do you mean 'we almost died because of you'... That's stupid. How dare you!"

He was holding a survival knife. It was sticky with blood. It was just self-defense. He had to retaliate, or they would kill him. That's what he thought. So he stabbed.

His level was higher. He also had an attack 'skill.' So he killed them. It was easy to kill them. Killed—but he hadn't meant to—no, no, nonono!

"Uggghha...ahh...eeh..."

He vomited. Disgusting. He couldn't stop shaking. An unspeakable self-loathing pushed up from the pit of his stomach.

"It's not my fault. It's not my fault. It's not my fault. It's not my fault. It's not my fault. It's not my fault. No, no, no, no, no..."

He mumbled words in his own defense. He needed to in order to maintain his sanity.

"Yes, I have to find them. Nishino and Shibata, Rikka... I have to look for them. Where the hell are they? I have to hurry, hurry... Haha, hahaha..."

He didn't wipe the blood off of his body. He barely even noticed it was there. Yes, yes. I have to meet them all. If I meet them, if I am with them, I will be okay. It should be. It has to be.

"And so, so...it's okay...okay..."

No one was there to hear those words, as he walked away on his shaky legs. Skill: Kindred Killer A skill that people who kill their own kind sometimes acquire. You receive more EXP points if you kill your own kind.

Furthermore, you get status bonuses while fighting your own kind. People who gain this skill will not be able to acquire, 'Fear Resistance' and 'Stress Resistance.'

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Chapter 56  
Source: Cipher  
Report

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Translator's Note: I tried to keep the names and skill names consistent, but oh well.

"Now then..."

Before entering the shopping mall, I retrieve the scrapped cars and boulders that were used during the battle. Unlike water, these weapons can be used multiple times. I should collect them properly.

Naturally, I didn't forget about the high orc's magic stone and weapon either. It seems like Ichinose-san left without laying a hand on them.

"... it's huge."

Just by picking up the high orc's magic stone, it is clear that it is different from the ones from before. Its size is around that of a fist. Once placed inside the item box, it is displayed as "The Magic Stone of Rufen".

"Rufen...?"

I thought it will be displayed as "The Magic Stone of an Orc", but apparently it is not so.

Rufen... was it the high orc's name? Now that I think about it, I remember hearing that word when I was on the verge of fainting.

Named Monsters.

In games, it's basically a given that monsters with names are exceptionally powerful. When looked at from such an angle, the high orc's monstrous abilities become understandable. Even so, as someone who was almost chased to death, it feels unreasonable.

"... Before anything, I should get going"

Thinking can be done later. After all, it isn't known when monsters will come knocking again. The flock of Shadow Wolves also worries me.

I should enter the mall quickly.

"Otto"

It might be due to the fatigue, but my legs get tangled.

"Wan"

Along with the bark, Momo comes over to support me with Shadow. What a good girl. I feel healed. When I pet her to express my gratitude, she narrows her eyes as if to show how comfortable it is.

"Furu Furu"

Aka, who is currently mimicking as my clothing, also seems worried.

"I'm fine. Now, let's go."

After being cheered up by Momo and Aka, I enter the shopping mall with them.

"....This is ... awful."

As one would expect, it is quite disastrous inside the shopping mall. Not only are the walls and floors destroyed, the majority of the goods are scattered across the floor. Furthermore, with the lack of electricity, it is very dim and ominous.

"Monsters... aren't present I guess."

There aren't any reactions from "Enemy Detection" and "Bad Feeling"

It seems like all the orcs that the high-orc was leading have marched to the Home Center. To be honest, it's a relief. In this fatigued state, I want to avoid battles as much as possible. Nonetheless, I should be wary of mimics. They can get past skills like "Sense of Danger" and "Enemy Detection".

While paying close attention to the surroundings, I wander around in the stores, eventually bearing witness to a mountain of corpses. They must be people who weren't able to escape in time. They are gathered and piled up casually in one location. Among them were the dead bodies of the JSDF.

I pass by the 'mountain' while bearing indescribable emotions.

During the past three days, I got used to being around dead bodies. The increase in "Stress Tolerance" must have played some part in this. Rather, without the skill, it wouldn't be possible to avoid being traumatized.

"Getting used to it is not a pleasant feeling..."

Just looking at the corpse is bad enough. I wonder how stressful it would be if I end up killing someone one day. I don't want to imagine it.

I walk pass the mountain of corpses and into a store.

"For the time being, around this place should do, right?"

"Wan"

I sit on a bench that is facing an entrance that is different from the one that I entered from. From here, I can escape quickly even if an accident occurs. I want to look around the store and restock some supplies, but there is something that is more urgent. It is the confirmation of my status.

Because I fainted, I wasn't able to finish listening to the Heavenly Voice. As such, I want to confirm how exactly my status has changed.

If I'm not wrong, I should have leveled up three times. After defeating the high orc, I gained three levels. Should I think of it as gaining three levels after defeating one monster, or should I think of it as only gaining three levels after experiencing a life-and-death situation?

For now, I open the status screen.

Kudou Kazuto

Level 16

HP: 40/130

MP: 16/16

Power: 98

Durability: 94

Agility: 254

Dexterity: 223

Magic: 0

Counterpower: 0

SP: 63

JP: 36

Professions

Assassin LV9

Hunter LV6

Unique Skills

Precocious

■■■■■

Skills

Silent Movement LV5, Night Vision LV3, Sudden Point LV3, Air Pressure Cut LV6, Appraisal Interruption LV3, Enemy Detection LV7, Telephoto LV3, Agility Reinforcement LV7, Dexterity Reinforcement LV4, Observation LV9, Listening Ear LV4, Body Strengthening LV9, Sword Surgery LV4, Stress Resistance LV6, Fear Resistance LV8, Poison Resistance LV1, Paralysis Resistance LV2, Virus Resistance LV1, Heat Resistance LV1, Aberration Resistance LV1, HP Auto Recovery LV1, Hostility Sensing LV6, Crisis Sensing LV9, Latency LV2, Getaway LV4, Defense Instinct LV1, Item Box LV10, Mail LV2, Concentration LV3

Party Members

Momo

Assassin dog Lv3

Aka

Red slime LV9

As expected, I gained 60 SP and 30 JP. Momo and Aka also gained levels. Overall, my status shows considerable growth. "Power" and "Durability" should reach three digits soon. Also, my HP is at a dangerous level. As I thought, it seems like my body didn't fully recover yet. I should rest properly afterwards.

More than anything, however, there is something under the "Unique Skills" category that piques my interest. This part under "Precocious."

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What the hell is this? I don't remember seeing this before the battle with the high orc. While it should be a skill since its under the category of "Unique Skills"...

I try to click on it. Nothing happens. When I try to increase its level by spending SP, there is no reaction.

"What does this mean?"

Thinking back at the events, I do faintly recall the Heavenly Voice mentioning something akin to a "Subjugation Bonus" before I fell unconscious. Did I acquire this skill at that moment? Then why can't I see it? It's definitely different from the skills I've acquired thus far.

It's making me curious... but I can't do anything about it. ly, I was able to guess the effects of skills and occupations through the texts presented, but there is nowhere to go in this case. Since I don't have a method to investigate, I'll put the subject on hold for the time being.

As usual, let's allocate the SP and JP as needed. In particular, with today's incidents, "Assassin" occupation can be raised to LV 10. If it is like how it was with "Spy", more advanced occupations would be released.

Without waiting, I consume 10 JP in order to raise the level of "Assassin". Now, what will happen? I wait for the Heavenly Voice with a pounding heart.

The Assassin's Level has reached the upper limit

Senior Jobs and Derived Jobs are now available for selection

The Third Occupation is now available

Advanced Occupation "Killer" has been released

Advanced Occupation "Executioner" has been released

Advanced Occupation "Ninja" has been released

Certain conditions have been satisfied

Derived Occupation "Hidden Weapons User" has been released

Derived Occupation "Fugitive" has been released

Derived Occupation "Carrier" has been released

Derived Occupation "Shadow Master" has been released

Once again, more advanced occupations and derived occupations have been presented.

Which one should I select?

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Chapter 59

Source: Cipher

Report

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Translator's Note: In the middle of the story, we switch to Ichinose's POV, and I intentionally translated that part in past tense. I first tried it out in present tense to be consistent, but it sounded really off. This is just a reminder in case you get confused.

I wake up. It was a good sleep. Just in case, I check whether there is any monster around us. "Enemy Detection" is not responding, so it should be safe.

"Aka, please cancel your mimicry"

"Furu Furu"

After having Aka cancel its mimicry, I stretch my body.

"Momo, Aka, good morning!"

"Wan!"

"Furu Furu"

Of course, Momo seems to have woken up earlier than I did. As for Aka... do slimes even fall asleep? When I ask Aka the question, it shudders, indicating that it isn't sure either. Then oh well. It doesn't really matter as long as Aka's fine.

Now then, today is the day that Ichinose-san formerly becomes our companion. Umu... as expected, I'm getting nervous. Because of some turn of events, she will be our first human companion. Furthermore, she's female, which makes me uneasy. Is my hair alright? Have I drooled during my sleep?

"Oh, before that, I should check up on when and where we're going to meet."

I send a mail to Ichinose-san, and a reply comes back immediately. 1 hour later at a nearby apartment.

"There is still some time until then."

Since that's the case, I should first get breakfast out of the way. I take out some food from the "Item Box" and have my first meal of the day. Bread, fruits, salad, and milk. Dog food for Momo. When I finish eating, I give Aka the rubbish for absorption [TN: Like the wrappers I'm assuming]. Not only is it eco-friendly, Aka enjoys it as well.

Afterwards, I wash my face, shave, and check for any signs that might show bad sleeping habits. Well, it's that. I'm just fixing my appearance. When I look into the mirror, I can see the dull face that I see every day.

Damn it.

It isn't time yet, so should I explore a bit more? Anyways, the location where we promised to meet is only a few minutes' walk from here. Even if I look around the shopping mall, I should be able to arrive in time. Now that the orcs are gone...

"Now that I think about it, did the skeletons from yesterday get attracted here because of the orcs' absence? Otherwise, I can't think of an explanation for their timely arrival."

"And it seems like there are conflicts between different monsters too..."

The orcs that I encountered before were being chased by a pack of Shadow Wolves. In other words, relationships between monsters are deadly as well. Well, this doesn't change the fact that I will be hunting them. After all, it's kill or be killed.

With that in mind, I recommence our search of the mall. We mainly go around places that we weren't able to visit yesterday. While doing so, I take anything that I find useful. I repeat this process by walking back and forth in the parking lot. There are a lot of cars that were abandoned. Of course, they are all absorbed into the "Item Box". Parts of destroyed pillars are taken in as well. After all, they can serve as weapons too.

"There aren't many corpses..."

I didn't see any dead bodies on the second floor and in the parking lot. As I thought, does the 'mountain' of corpse include everyone that was killed in this shopping the mall? But then again, what is the purpose of gathering all of them in one place? Now that I think about it, the monsters' physical bodies disappear after defeating them, leaving behind only experience and magic stones. On the other hand, when humans are killed, their bodies remain. What is with this difference?

"The more I think about it, the more I realize how enigmatic this world's system is."

Abruptly, monsters started appearing in massive numbers, and a game-like system was implemented. In the first place, why did the monsters appear? What exactly are magic stones? There are too many things that I can't comprehend. There are too many contradictions that I can't just accept answers like "it just IS". For example, physical laws and stuff aren't being kept...

"Hmm?"

While pondering, "Enemy Detection" picks up a response. It's a human. Is it possibly... a survivor? No, that isn't plausible. Considering the orcs' superior sense of smell, it is impossible to hide from them. Without skills like "Odorless" or "Attention Cutoff" that I possess, a person will eventually be found.

"Does that mean that he or she came in from outside?"

Was the person waiting for the orcs to leave, just like the skeletons? For now, let's check who it is. After hiding Momo in the shadows, I activate "Odorless", "Attention Cutoff", and "Silent Operation" as I approach the location.

"...there"

They are near an entrance that is opposite from the one which I use to enter the building. There, I see two females. They're young. They are either in their early 20s or their late teens.

"Hello? Is anyone here?"

"Hey, why don't we turn back? I'm sure everyone has already fled."

"It's fine. Unlike before, we have raised our levels. This time, we wo...won't be done in by the likes of monsters. We will notice them."

"If you say that while trembling, it doesn't sound convincing in the least..."

The two women wander into the store while holding backpacks and wielding weapons that look like Sasumata.

"Oh?"

One of them looks familiar. I stare at that woman's face from the corner of a shelf. A black haired beauty that can be characterized by the mole under her eyes. There is no doubt. She is the newlywed who was my neighbor. So she is alive... Is she searching for her husband? While having a bad premonition, I decide to watch over the girls' actions.

While all of this is happening -

"This is bad... my stomach hurts..."

Ichinose Natsu was crawling in the room of a certain apartment. In the end, she wasn't able to calm down after an entire day of preparation.

"Ugh... I'm nervous."

Rather, she became more anxious as time passed, and she wasn't able to get any sleep at night. 'What should I do if he makes fun of me when we meet? What if he doesn't like me? Am I a source of annoyance? Have I sent

too many mails? Did I mofu-mofu too much?’ Morning came while she was having these pessimistic thoughts.

“But, in order to meet Momo-chan... I’ll try my best!”

To encourage herself, she took a “Let’s do it” pose. Even so, the thought of speaking to a stranger was nerve-wracking. Her mental health wasn’t faring well. For several reasons, she hadn’t attended high school for an entire year. After rejecting outside contact, her life as a Hikikomori made her incapable of interacting with strangers. Even after the world was infested with monsters, this aspect of hers didn’t change.

“I had no problem meeting with him when he was unconscious but...”

A recovery potion that she acquired through Gacha. When she approached the man to heal him with the potion, she must have been in a weird state. She noticed only after she calmed down how embarrassing it was.

“What kind of expression should I have when I meet him later...”

Perhaps the man might think otherwise, but she believed that it will be awkward.

“I... should be more determined... more determined...”

If... if she overcame this predicament, she would be able to travel with the dog. She wanted to mofu-mofu. She wanted to be healed. With that in mind, she stood up. Even if she is afraid of meeting strangers, she must overcome it. This was all for the sake of a new companion. All for the sake of one dog.

“Wait for me, Momo-chan... I will try my best!”

With her partner, the rifle, she opened the door of the apartment. The expression on her face was like that of a warrior’s, a warrior who has decided to enter a bloody battlefield.

Please remember though, Ichinose was just leaving the room to meet someone.

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Chapter 60

Source: Cipher

Report

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Translator’s Note: Just like before, whenever it’s not in first person, I’ll be using past tense. Enjoy~

While hiding in the shadows of the shelves, I stare at the two women. One of them was a neighbor who recently married....but I don’t seem to remember her name. I wonder what it is. The other person has short hairs and is wearing a jersey that is normally distributed in schools. She is most likely a high-school student. She looks like the type that excels at sports. The two girls advance slowly and steadily with their Sasumatas ready for combat.

“It’s, it’s safe, right...? There aren’t any orcs inside, right?”

The high-school girl seems quite frightened. Her hands that are wielding the weapon are shaking.

"It's safe. We would've been attacked by now if they were here... I think."  
"Please don't use 'I think' in your replies!"

As for the newly-wed neighbor, she has a firm foothold despite having a rigid expression. Is she unexpectedly courageous, or is she just trying to look brave in front of her junior?

Hmm... will they be okay? From what I see, their levels aren't particularly high. Rather, why did they come here? Is it to get supplies? No. From the previous conversation, is it to look for survivors?

"It's alright, Mrs. Ishizawa. I'm sure your husband has already run away. So, you know, let us turn back as well..."

Ah, so they did come for the survivors. Also, the newly-wed's last name seems to be Ishizawa. Despite the sports girl's constant please to return, the newly-wed continues to advance deeper into the mall. If I'm not mistaken, if they walk further in... 'that thing' should be there. While thinking 'this could be bad', I witness the girls screaming as they come across "that thing". It's the mountain of corpse that the orcs have stacked up.

"Wha, what is this?... U... uu...ueeeeh."

The sports girl vomits as if she can't bear to directly look at it. Well, that's how people normally react, isn't it. If I didn't have "Stress Tolerance", the scene is enough to traumatize me for a lifetime.

"No... no! This has to be a lie!"

On the other hand, Mrs. Ishizawa stares blankly at the mountain of corpse. To be more precise, she stares at a certain point. At a certain man.

"No... it's a lie... No, dear... No... Noooooooooo!"

While screaming hysterically, Mrs. Ishizawa runs towards the man's corpse. He should be one of the people who fought in the malls on the first day. I see, he was her husband.

"Dear... I'm sorry...I'm sorry..."

Mrs. Ishigawa hugs the dead body and cries for a while. The sports girl averts her eyes from the scene, unable to bear the reality. Honestly speaking, looking at it is indeed uncomfortable. It's almost time to meet up, so I should leave before I get noticed. While I'm interested in finding out where the girls came from, I have to go see Ichinose-san. After all, I shouldn't be late.

"Kun~?"

'Is it okay?' Momo seems to ask. My answer remains fixed.

"It's fine like this. We shouldn't stick our necks into other people's business."

We recognize each other and were once neighbors. However, that is the extent of our relationship.

"Please try your best in surviving."

I leave the shopping mall after saying what I have to say.

A world that has fundamentally changed in a short period of three days. A world where monsters roam freely and where death is a constant



companion. In such a world, tragedies like this must be happening everywhere.

That's exactly why we must work hard and avoid death.

A few minutes later...

Two people arrived near the shopping mall.

"Oh, Nisshi's predictions were accurate. Seems like the orcs aren't here."

"Whew, that's a relief. After all, this is the shortest route to the school."

From the parking lot, two students, Nishino and Rikka, looked towards the entrance of the shopping mall.

"What do you want to do? Do you want to have a look inside?"

"... Let's refrain from doing that. Although some of the things inside are quite alluring, our priority lies in reaching our destination as soon as possible."

"Nnn.. well, that's true... wait, someone's coming out."

"What...?"

When they fixed their gaze at a certain direction, they saw two girls coming out from the shopping mall. Among them, there was an individual that the duo was acquainted with. A short-haired girl wearing jersey. The moment they saw her, their expressions changed.

"Are you... Katsuragi-san?"

The girl was surprised when she was suddenly called out. Thereafter, her eyes widened upon noticing Yoshino and Rikka in the parking lot.

"...Eh? Seriously? Nishino-kun? And... Aisaka-san? You, you guys were alive? For real?"

The short-haired girl raised a voice which was mixed with surprise and a tint of relief. This girl, Katsuragi, was once Nishino and Rikka's classmate. They ran up to each other and were rejoiced by the reunion.

"Katsuragi-chi, long time no see~ so you weren't hurt."

"Aisaka-san... I was worried about you two because you guys weren't at school that day."

"Yeah, that's right. Hey, Katsuragi-chi, how were you these days? And who is that besides you?"

"Oh, right. Hmm, where should I start..."

The sports girl, Katsuragi, explained her story to her friends. Three days ago, when monsters first started appearing, Katsuragi was at school because of club activities. There, she was ambushed by monsters and had to cooperate with the other students in order to survive. Later, they realized that not many monsters spawned near the school. As a result, the school became an evacuation center as people started gathering there.

"I see. It must have been tough on your part..."

"Same goes for you, Nishino... I hope Ono-kun and Shibata-kun are doing well as well."

"Ah, they should be alive."

"Hey? Where are you two headed towards? If it's fine with you guys, how about coming with-"

"Of course, allow us to follow you. We were trying to get there anyways."  
Unlike Nishino who looked determined, Katsuragi showed an expression of relief. Her cheeks were slightly red.

"Great. Then, should we go together?"

"Sure."

In such a way, Nishino and Rikka met their classmate and decided to head for school.

"By the way, have you guys defeated monsters yet? What did you guys choose for your occupations and skills?"

A question is casually thrown their way.

"Oh, I'm-"

"I chose 'Negotiator' while Rikka chose 'Adventurer'. So Rikka is responsible for combat... while it does hurt my pride as a man, it seems like we aren't allowed to change once we've decided on our occupations."

"So it's like that."

Nishino's reponse wasn't particularly suspicious, so Katsuragi didn't delve further into it. Nishino, seeing that Katsuragi wasn't doubtful about his answer, felt relieved inside his heart.

"Is it okay...?"

Rikka quietly approached Nishino and asked.

"We don't exactly know what is going on. Just in case, I thought it was better to hide our real occupations."

"True that."

"What's up with you both? Walk faster!"

"Oh, we'll be there in a moment."

Their conversation came to an abrupt stop. Yes, the truth cannot be revealed. Their actual levels and occupations included, but above all else, the world cannot know about that "skill" of theirs.

Nishino Kyouya

LV 8

Profession:

Commander LV4

Skills:

Leadership LV2, Negotiation Technique LV 2, Combat Support LV 2, Command LV 3, Survival Instinct LV 2, Crisis Sensing LV 1, Good Luck LV 1, Kindred Killer LV 2

Aisaka Rikka

LV 9

Profession:

Berserker LV 5

Skills:

Berserk LV 3, Continuous Battle LV 1, Enhanced Slash LV 2, Enhanced Strike LV 1, Physical Regeneration LV 2, Kindred Killer LV 2

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Chapter 62  
Source: Cipher  
Report

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Translator's Note: Why does the author talk about Ichinose throwing up so much... Also, there might be some mistranslations because of the way the raw is phrased. However, I tried my best not to alter the author's message, so please forgive me for some awkward sentences. Enjoy~

"I'm really sorry."

When I finish changing, Ichinose-san apologizes while performing a dogeza.

"Ah... well, don't sweat it. It's already in the past."

To some minority, being puked on by a beautiful girl might even be a reward; however, I do not possess such peculiar fetish. But since we're going to be in the same party from now on, I shouldn't get worked up over trivial things... with that said, I don't think I'll ever forget about this experience. As for her vomit, Aka ate it all up. For Aka, the vomit of a beautiful girl must be some kind of a prize. As a source of food, of course. I did change my outfit, but in the first place, most of it landed on Aka... Secretly, I am slightly hesitant about wearing Aka anymore in its mimicked form. She looks apologetic even whilst her head is turned.

"Sorry, I'm not sure what kind of expression I'm supposed to have in this kind of scenarios."

"Right..."

'Facing someone you threw up over, I don't know what kind of expression one should have either.'

"...that was how I expected you to reply."

"Then I apologize for not meeting your expectations."

I give her a vague smile. This kid has a surprisingly bright character. It's to the extent where I can't fathom her being a Hiki Komori.

"Let's move on to another topic. So, regarding what we'll be doing from now on--"

"Oh, yes. Hmmm... for the time being, how 'bout we hunt first?"

Don't say that so casually... To hunt for the time being... this girl, she's slightly dangerous.

"Wan!"

Moreover, Momo seems kind of excited!? No, Momo! Don't be like this!

"Kuun~?"

E-even if you look at me with such pleading eyes, it's still not okay! Safety first. This, absolute. I pat Momo who seems disappointed. So cute. I feel healed.

"Before that, can we check up on each other's occupations and skills?"

We're going to be in the same party, so it's better to understand each other's skills. I sneak a peek at the gun that Ichinose-san is holding. It's a

huge rifle that normal civilians shouldn't be able to get their hands on. Where on earth did she get it?

"You have a point there."

Feeling convinced, she caresses her weapon.

"... As expected, are you curious about this?"

"It would be a lie if I say no."

ly, she has stated that her occupation is Hiki Komori . For such an occupation, the rifle seems totally out of place. When I wait for her reply, I notice her complexion turning worse. H-hey, wait a second...

"...Sorry. Please wait a little while."

While holding her mouth, Ichinose-san beckons at Momo.

"Kuun~?"

'What?' Momo approaches. Momo, it seems like she's on good terms with Ichinose-san. I'm a bit jealous.

"Fuuu. This calms my mind."

Ichinose-san puts Momo on her lap and mofu-mofus her. She has a blissful look. I understand. I totally understand her feelings. The healing effect that comes from mofu-mofuing Momo far surpasses that of any modern healing goods. Momo also narrows her eyes as if it is soothing. Eventually, Ichinose-san calms down enough to start stalking.

"Truth be told, I hold two occupations. The first one is Hiki Komori , which I've told you before. The other one is called Sniper ."

"Hee~."

I am slightly stunned by her words. Two occupations. Does that mean she raised Hiki Komori to the maximum level? That can't be true. She's only level 20. According to one of Nishino's friends, people normally gain one JP every time they level up. At level 20, one wouldn't have enough points to cap an occupation... No. Just like skills, is it possible to raise the levels of occupations with enough proficiency? Or is there another way to obtain the second occupation without raising the first one to its maximum level?

" Hiki Komori was the one that I decided on first."

"This might sound rude, but why did you choose such an occupation?"

When I ask her, Ichinose-san averts her eyes uneas - she wasn't looking here to begin with.

"I thought it wasn't real..."

Ah, I see. Certainly, suddenly waking up to such a world, anyone would think that they are dreaming.

"It was four days ago--"

While mofu-mofuing Momo, she explains how she raised her level so rapidly. It was four days ago that she gained her first level. It was precisely the day that I killed the Shadow Wolf with my car. On that day, she was in her apartment playing an online game in one of the rooms. Having gone without any sleep for three days, she decided to take a shower because she was getting tired. When she came out of the bath, she realized that the windows were open. Apparently, she was negligent and forgot to lock them. Then,

she heard a strange sound from within. Curious of what it was, she turned towards the source of the sound. There, she saw a giant fly the size of a person's fist.

Was it an insect-type monster? I didn't know those things existed. Anyways, seeing the gigantic fly, she felt alarmed and scared. However, she didn't run away. Instead, she rolled up a magazine that was nearby and bashed the fly with all her might... this girl's seriously amazing. The moment the fly got squashed, a voice rang in her head, telling her that she leveled up.

"Leveled... up?"

However, at the time, she thought she was hallucinating. The corpse of the fly started to disappear. Having witnessed all these events, she came to the conclusion that she was seeing things due to sleep deprivation. However, just as she started gaming again, 'that' appeared as she tried to look at her character's status. In front of her eyes, her status screen had popped up.

"What's this? Select an occupation?"

Without much consideration, she chose "Hiki Komori". Right afterwards, her status decreased exponentially. In return, she received some interesting skills: "Cognitive Impediment" and "Gacha".

"Gacha" seems to be a skill where the user can obtain various goods by spending SP. The skill's nature is befitting of a Hiki Komori.

"On my first attempt, I was lucky enough to acquire a 'Sniper Set'."

Simultaneously, Sniper was added in her occupation column. The skills and the gun were bonuses that came with the occupation. Hee~... so occupations that are acquired through skills are automatically added. While there is gambling involved, anyone can acquire convenient abilities as long as their luck is decent.

Since Ichinose-san believed that it was all a dream, she started slaying monsters with her gun. After hunting, hunting, and hunting some more, the reality dawned on her. After throwing up, throwing up, and throwing up some more, she wondered what she should do in order to survive. She arrived at the same conclusion as I did: become powerful by raising levels and look for suitable allies. All of this led to our current situation where we became acquainted.

"- that is all."

Despite struggling in her delivery, she conveys to me how desperate she was. The fact that she explained all this while fighting against the urge to throw up moved me... but that didn't stop me from putting enough distance between us so that nothing would go wrong even if she threw up.

"Is that so. It must have been tough."

"It really was..."

She nods.

"But is this okay? I know that I'm the one who asked, but is it okay to so easily reveal your jobs and skills?"

In this new world, information about someone's levels, jobs, and skills are highly confidential. She should know this as well. Why is she willing to reveal this much information...

"It's... fine."

While saying this, she faces me ever so slightly for the first time.

"I-I, you know... believe in... Kudou-san and Momo-chan."

She says this upfront.

"Uh, yes. Thank you very much."

I become embarrassed and inadvertently look away. Seriously, why was this girl a Hiki Komori? Thanks to her, my body feels a bit hot. Ichinose-san also realizes what she has just said and turns away.

"..."

"..."

It's becomes very awkward. The mood leaves no space for speech. I want to ask her various questions regarding topics such as why she trusts me so deeply and what we should do in the future, but words fail to escape my mouth. It's more awkward than that time when she threw up. But the awkwardness is immediately lifted when I detect something with "Enemy Detection". Monsters.

"Ichinose-san, we should put our conversation on hold."

"Eh?"

While looking past Ichinose-san who is stunned, I glance at Momo.

"Uuuu...!"

Momo jumps off from Ichinose-san's knees and prepares for battle. This presence... this number... there's no mistake. I readjust my state of mind and put on a serious expression.

"A pack of Shadow Wolves are approaching. We should leave this area for now."

Damn it. Learn to read the mood, monsters!

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Chapter 63

Source: Cipher

Report

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"Crisis Sensing" and "Enemy Detection" are reacting strongly. Without a doubt, the Shadow Wolves are coming for us. Despite "Odorless" being at LV 4, it seems like it isn't strong enough to trick them yet. I wonder how great their sense of smell truly is.

"Ichinose-san."

"Hya~hya~!"

Ichinose-san reacts strongly after being called out. Currently, I am sprinting around the city with Ichinose-san on my back.

"I'm sorry for suddenly putting you on my back. From what I heard, I thought it will be faster if I ran while carrying you."

This isn't sexual harassment. I repeat, this is NOT sexual harassment.

"Ah, no.... that is, um, true... but, you, too close..."

Sorry. I'm really sorry. You might have the urge to throw up, but please endure for a bit more. By the way, I have anchored Ichinose-san to me with a shadow so that she won't fall off. After all, with her status, she can fall off very easily even if she grabs onto me. Of course, I haven't forgotten about her gun either.

I can't put her gun in my "Item Box". Is it because the gun is recognized as the possession of someone else? Speaking of which, I wish I could put Ichinose-san herself in the "Item Box" or make her submerge into the shadows like Momo, but I shouldn't demand such a luxury.

"I'm speeding up!"

"Eh, ah, hiya-a-a-a-a-aaaa!"

With my current status, it isn't really hard for me to run while being weighed down by another person. If monsters weren't chasing us, I could have enjoyed the soft and comfortable sensation on my back... but then again, if we weren't being chased, she wouldn't be on my back. It is the dilemma of which comes first, the egg or the bird. Well, it might be slightly different. Even so -

"At this rate, we won't be able to shake them off..."

Even as I increase my speed, the wolves move steadily while maintaining a certain amount of distance. They don't seem to be in a rush. As they can track us through our odor, they have the leeway to chase us while putting pressure on us through maintaining a set distance. They are capable of hunter-like movements that involve marking and tracking preys in groups... it's a headache. Really, why are they so intent on attacking us? I don't think I did anything that would make them hold a gr... hm, I hunted them a lot huh. Sh\*t.

What should I do. If it becomes a battle of attrition, it would be disadvantageous for us. Since it has come to this, should we fight it out somewhere? Somewhere we can best exploit Ichinose-san's sniping abilities as well as the skills that Momo and I possess...

"Yeah, that place is our only option..."

The parking lot of the shopping district. We have no other choice but to confront the Shadow Wolves there. Apparently, there is some kind of destiny between that place and myself.... despite only giving me traumatic memories. We arrive at the shopping mall. After checking our surrounding, I head towards the entrance.

"...Ugh... we're at... the shopping mall?"

"Yes, we will be confronting them here."

Ichinose-san comes off from my back and looks towards me with her mouth covered.

"...Are we going to fight?"

"Indeed"

"...Understood."

When I give her the answer, her pale expression reverts back to normal and all trace of emotion disappears from her face. The atmosphere surrounding her shifts dramatically. Her eyes turn sharp, and the temperature around her drops. She takes back her gun and scouts the surrounding.

"Kudou-san, with that black thing from before, can you bring me to the rooftop?"

"Eh... uh, sure."

I am momentarily left speechless by her sudden change.

"Based on my skills, it will be optimal if I can snipe from the rooftop. From there, I will provide support."

"... Got it."

As per her instructions, I manipulate the shadow. The second floor of the shopping mall has an exposed parking lot. It should be an ideal spot for snipers.

"By the way, Ichinose-san, please bring this with you."

"This is...?"

Ichinose-san stares at that 'thing' with curious eyes. It is a knit hat. Of course, it isn't an ordinary one.

"That is a part of Aka that is mimicking a hat. It'll be of use to you, so please put it on."

Along with the rise of Aka's level, its mimetic abilities have also become better. While it depends on the size, Aka now has the capability to mimic two to three objects.

"Thank you."

After she puts on the hat, I bring her to the roof. Momo also emerges from the shadow. When I turn around, I see the pack of Shadow Wolves.

Hmmm... 12 in total. That's a lot. But, with our current might-

"Momo, Aka, Ichinose-san... it's hunting time."

"Wan!"

"Furu Furu"

"N."

We begin the battle. The new skill that Momo and I possess. I will show it to them.

"Let's go, Momo!"

"Wan!"

Momo and I dash separately at different directions and deploy our shadows at the Shadow Wolves. Naturally, the Shadow Wolves try to resist with their own shadows, but it is within my expectations. Simultaneously, I deploy as many heavy equipments and vehicles as I could on top of their heads. It is a combined attack involving shadows and mass.

"!?"

The Shadow Wolves express surprise. If these wolves are similar to the ones from the previous days, they won't be able to bear the weight of the heavy



It isn't a shadow. Rather, the 'darkness' looks like a bottomless pit capable of sucking in anything in existence. The puddle-sized 'darkness' spreads rapidly, and something comes out of it while making a sound. What

appeared is a black wolf. Its size is slightly smaller than a regular Shadow Wolf, but the sense of intimidation that it exudes far surpasses any Shadow Wolves.

"Hey, hey... please tell me this is a joke."

Without a shadow of doubt, this guy is a Superior Individual. Is this Dark Wolf the evolved state of the Shadow Wolves... for an individual like this to exist. Just by making an appearance, the tables have turned. That's how great a threat it is.

"Is it at the level of the high-orc?"

While having cold sweats, I stare at the enemy in front of me. Why are nasty guys like these popping up one after another?

"Grrrrr..."

The opposition snares at me in a low voice, hell-bent on engaging in combat. Most likely, it hasn't appeared until now as it wanted to evaluate our strengths. By sending its subordinates, it tested the waters. When it was certain that it could achieve victory, it came out. What a tricky opponent to deal with. Despite being a monster, it has high intelligence. I better fight this guy while assuming that all our previous tactics have been seen through.

Regardless, if you think you have perfectly understood our strength, you're sorely mistaken. After all, I still have a "trump card" up my sleeves. Indeed, it's my new skill - "Ninjutsu".

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Chapter 64

Source: Cipher

Report

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Translator's Note: the author changed "black wolf" into "dark wolf". Other than that, enjoy~

"Grrrrr..."

The dark wolf issues a growl. The growl induces the 'darkness' around it to expand, making it look like a swamp full of black mud. It brings about an unpleasant feeling. I should try to avoid direct contact as much as possible.

"Gu-o-a-a-a!"

Along with the wolf's roar, the 'darkness' starts to move like a stream as it approaches me. Fast. But, if it's only this speed, I can dodge it. I quickly move back and observe the attack.

"Wha-"

What the hell is that? The scrapped cars that have been touched by the 'darkness' is being swallowed one after another. It's not only that.

Everything around them is submerging into the 'darkness' too. It feels like I'm looking at a bottomless swamp... Oops, I shouldn't be watching it so

leisurely. I'm sorry, but I'll be taking them back. I try to take back the cars that are about to be absorbed. However...

"Hm... I can't retrieve them!?"

I try to use the "Item Box", but it fails. No matter how much I try, it still doesn't work. I can't recover them. Once that thing latches onto an object, it's the end, huh. What's the mechanism behind it?

"Tch"

So I can't spam attack. If I were to attack thoughtlessly from a distance, the 'darkness' will act as a shield before the attack even reaches the target. On the other hand, if it becomes a close-quarter combat, I have to somehow deal with the 'darkness' surrounding the dark wolf.

"Momo!"

I signal Momo. In just a few seconds, Momo "Roars" again.

"WAOO-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O!!!"

It's the roar of destruction. However, the dark wolf must have known it beforehand because it immediately hides itself within the 'darkness'. So the 'darkness' can also absorb shockwaves. The surface of the 'darkness' is vibrating. Even Momo's "Roar" is rendered ineffective. But it's all good. The goal of Momo's "Roar" wasn't to inflict damage on the dark wolf; rather, it was to steal its vision and earn some time. Immediately, I activate "the skill".

Momo's roar ends. Right afterwards, the dark wolf releases the 'darkness'. Precisely at that moment, its expression changes. It is a matter of course. After all, before its eyes, "I" have suddenly appeared.

"Gau!?"

It must be thinking 'how did he arrive so quickly?'.

It wasn't really difficult. I just made use of some "footholds" to come near you. I noticed that your 'darkness' requires a few seconds in order to absorb the cars completely. By intentionally releasing cars and boulders into the 'darkness', I approached while they were sinking. I swing the knife that the high-orc dropped. Before these "footholds" disappear, I have to get rid of this guy.

"Gau-u-u!"

Unfortunately, it doesn't go as planned. Just as it is about to hit, the dark wolf twists its body to avoid the attack. Such an astounding control over its body.

"Ga-a-a!"

The dark wolf retaliates immediately. The 'darkness' around it transforms into an arm and grabs onto "me". As the grip tightens, my "body" screams in pain. The moment my body is about to reach its limit- Bon! "I" disappear with the appearance of white smoke.

"...!?"

The dark wolf's expression changes again. It must be thinking 'what happened?'.

"What's with you? Why are you so surprised?"

From a distance away, I shout at the dark wolf.

“Ga....ga~?”

The dark wolf tilts its head as if it doesn't comprehend what is happening. Since it's its first time experiencing it, it's understandable that it doesn't understand what's going on. Let me explain. This is “Ninjutsu”, the skill that I recently acquired. The one I just used is known as “Duplication”. As its name states, the skill allows me to create several copies of myself. The maximum number that I can create is five. The clones' physical abilities are similar to mine. Each clone requires 3 MP to maintain for 10 seconds. While the clones have a flaw of not being able to use any skills, the ability is so powerful that the pros outweigh the cons. Just like now, I can make the clones charge at enemies without taking any risk myself.

“Hey, is it okay like this? Look at your back.”

“!?”

The dark wolf is too focused on me to realize the other “me” approaching from its back. Yes, there is another clone. This time around, the wolf isn't able to dodge the attack. The knife on the clone's hand gives the dark wolf a shallow cut.

“Gau-u!”

But the next moment, the clone is once again gripped to death by the dark wolf's ‘darkness’. I shouldn't go easy on it. Using “Throw”, I bombard the dark wolf with various kitchen utensils and knives. It tries to use its ‘darkness’ as a shield; however-

“WAOO-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O!!!”

Once again, Momo's “Roar” resonates throughout the surrounding. I wasn't aiming to directly harm the dark wolf with the “Throw”. It was rather to make the dark wolf solely focus on me. Although it tries to guard against the “Roar”, it doesn't make it in time.

“~Tsu!”

Unwillingly, the dark wolf is blown away. Furthermore, a bullet pierces the body of the wolf as it rolls on the ground. It's an assist from Ichinose-san.

Such merciless attack is wonderful, Ichinose-san.

“Gaa!”

The dark wolf stands while swaying from side to side. This time around, the wolf seems to have received quite a significant amount of damage. As expected of an individual who evolved from a shadow wolf; its weakness is similar to them. Its physical defense isn't superb. While the ‘darkness’ is a force to be reckoned, significant damage can be dealt as long as the attack hits. The dark wolf is undeniably strong, but it isn't as unreasonable as the high-orc. Nevertheless, I will not relax until the end. I learned this through several occasions. There is the highest risk when someone tries to go in for the kill because he or she has the upper hand.

“Gauw!”

“Gao!”

The surviving shadow wolves gather around the dark wolf. We stare at the pack while maintaining a safe distance. The next attack will be its last. Or so we believed -

“Uuooooo-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o!!”

Suddenly, the dark wolf roars. Simultaneously, his ‘darkness’ spreads in all directions.

Is it a suicide attack? No, that’s not it. I am getting a ominous feeling from the ‘darkness’. This is...!?

“Momo! Avoid it!”

The moment I say that, various things start pouring out. The recently consumed cars, building remains, trees, and even bodies are included. ‘Bullets’ of various mass are shot out in every direction. So the ‘darkness’ can also take out anything that it absorbs!

“Tch. Aka!”

“Furu Furu”

Momo is safe as she hides inside her shadow. Aka, on the other hand, inflates immediately and protects me from the massive ‘bullets’. A part of Aka is accompanying Ichinose-san, so she should be safe. I bounce around the storm while being protected by Aka. My body rotates rapidly. It feels like I’m being washed inside a washing machine. Though this is already my second time experiencing this, it still takes a toll on my body (TN: I don’t remember when his first time was...). Will it attack us through the storm? Unexpectedly, no attack ensues. Soon, the storm stops. After my vision clears, I notice that the dark wolf is nowhere in sight.

“Eh?”

Did it hide? But the rest of the shadow wolves have disappeared as well. Where exactly have they gone? I activate “Detect Enemy” without expecting much result. From the search, I sense the shadow wolves escaping farther and farther away. The dark wolf is also moving away.

“Have they... run away?”

Silence. At first, I suspect that it is a trap. However, nothing happens.

“Wan!”

Momo leaves her shadow and approaches me. The fight ended too suddenly. The monster decided to flee. It is my first time seeing this.

“...”

This fellow is different from the other monsters. It observed our strength and ran away when it was at a disadvantage. For monsters like this to exist...

“It’s a pity that it ran away...”

The fact that it ran away proves that we could have defeated it just now. Even if we pursue them, we will be helpless if the dark wolf decides to hide within its ‘darkness’.

“How annoying...”

I’m certain that it will appear before us again. When that time comes, it would be much stronger, and it would choose to appear only when it holds

the advantage over us. Even though we have won the battle, I'm not in the mood to celebrate.

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Chapter 65

Source: Cipher

Report

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Since the monsters are gone, I should first meet up with Ichinose-san. I look around me.

"Wow, this is quite..."

Not to mention the shopping mall, even the buildings around it are in unsightly states. All the cars and trees that the dark wolf released were either piercing the walls or stuck on the ground. It's as if a storm has passed. Hmm, actually, it won't be this ruined even if a storm passes.

"Its might is impressive."

I am once again reminded of how horrifying an existence the dark wolf is. The power to release anything the 'darkness' absorbs at the speed of bullets in all directions. While it might seem similar to how I use my "Item Box", they're fundamentally different in nature. My attacks make use of the objects' ability to free-fall; on the other hand, the dark wolf's attacks are clearly imbued with additional speed. In other words, it is highly compatible. It's a modern version of the "Gate of \*abylon". It is also the most ideal method of attack that I can imagine, so I'm quite jealous of the wolf. Is there a way for me to use it? The dark wolf evolved from shadow wolves that can control shadows. Since that's the case, if I train Shadow Master and "Shadow Manipulation" to a certain limit, I might be able to use a similar attack. It's worth considering. While thinking about the topic, I arrive at the entrance and find Ichinose-san waiting. I'm extremely satisfied with her. She isn't injured either. It appears that Aka did its job properly.

"What happened to the monsters?"

"They ran away by making use of that storm as a distraction"

"Ran... away? It's my first time witnessing monsters with unreasonable powers like that. If slime-chan wasn't with me, I might not have made it back alive."

Or so she states while rubbing Aka. Indeed, if Aka wasn't there back then, I would have also sustained some major injuries. Aka is great. Aka is amazing.

"Furu Furu"

For some reason, I can imagine Aka being smug while being in its knit-hat state. But then again, it has earned the right to do so. As if she could finally relax, Ichinose-san sits down where she stood.

"Whew... I'm spent."

"Great job back there."

I take out some tea from the “Item Box” and hand it to her. I also take out some for myself as well.

“Wan! Wan!”

“Yes, yes. There is enough for you too, Momo.”

For Momo, who has come out from the shadows, I pour some water on a bowl. Momo is cute when she drinks water desperately with her tongue out.

“I’ve been curious for a while, but was that a skill of yours, Kudou-san?”

As I interact with Momo, I realize Ichinose-san staring at me intently while drinking her tea.

“Yeah, it’s known as ‘Item Box’. The skill allows its users to put things in and out as they please.”

There’s no point concealing anymore, so I tell her the truth.

“Uwah, that’s so convenient. I’m envious.”

It’s great, isn’t it? But I won’t give it you. As if she just remembered, Ichinose-san follows up with another question.

“I haven’t asked Kudou-san about your occupations and skills, have I?”

“Ah, that’s true...”

I wasn’t trying to hide it or anything. The monsters just appeared before I had the chance to tell her anything. Since things have progressed to this point, I’ll just tell her honestly.

“So about my occupations and skills-”

I follow up with an explanation about my occupations and skills, along with what Aka and Momo can do in combat. By doing this, I am revealing my hands, but I think Ichinose-san can be trusted. She has already told me everything about herself, so it’s only fair if I tell her mine. We’ll be in the same party anyways. Nevertheless, I am still wary of eavesdroppers. When I finish explaining about myself, I notice Ichinose-san looking dazed.

“Eh... Ninja ? Your occupation is Ninja ?”

“That’s right.”

To be precise, I’m a Hunter , a Ninja , and a Shadow Master .

“And you have 3 occupations, with 5 available ninjutsu and over 30 different skills? Eh, you’re kidding... right?”

Ichinose-san is more shocked that I expected when she is informed about my occupations and skills. Occasionally, I hear her muttering, “Uwa, am I severely lacking skills...?”.

As expected, I have overwhelmingly more skills than others. I wasn’t really aware of it because there wasn’t anyone to compare to. As I thought,

“Precocious” has an impressive effect. I earn SP and JP ten times faster than other people.

“...Kudou-san?”

“Yes? What is it?”

“First off, can I call you a ‘cheating bastard’?”

“Denied.”

“Whyyyyy!”

“Obviously, I wouldn’t want a nickname like that.”

I absolutely refuse. Hearing my response, Ichinose-san looks down at her feet and starts to mumble,

"Uwah, unbelievable. This person is seriously unbelievable. While I only get to be a Hiki Komori, he gets to have cool occupations like Ninja. Not only that, he also gets to tame companions like Momo-chan (who's cute) and slime-kun. Seriously, which novel's protagonist are you, you're existence is already a cheat. To begin with, I wanted to have a cool occupation as well. It's just that I accidentally chose the wrong occupation. Also, also, I want to have cute pets with me. For someone who has everything I wanted to behave like that, I'm so jealous. I'm so jealous. I'm so jealous. I'm so jealous..."

"I-Ichinose-san?"

Uh, Ichinose-san is behaving strangely.

"To begin with, the Gatcha just has bad prizes. If I received better prizes, I would've had an easier time leveling up. If I received better prizes, I could've met Momo-chan earlier. If I received better prizes, I could've communicated with Kazuto-san without a problem. At first, I did see him as an extra that comes with Momo-chan, but I know now that he is a reliable partner since he was nice enough to not alienate me when I threw up over him. I'm telling you that all these hurdles are too high for a Hiki Komori. I'm so done with this. I can't endure this anymore. I feel like throwing up again and all that. It's really the worst."

What are you even saying? Hey, what is this girl even saying? Her eyes are devoid of light.

"I-Ichinose-san! Please come back to your senses! Ichinose-san!"

"...Wha-, oh, yes."

Ichinose-san finally comes back to reality after I forcefully shake her shoulders. As soon as she sees my face, she turns away. I'm slightly shocked.

"Sorry, I showed you something unsightly."

"Uh... yeah."

"Actually, I've had a habit of immersing into my thoughts for a long time..."

No, what transpired just now was at a completely different level. You can't just laugh this off. I wonder. Based on our mail exchange and what happened just now, I'm starting to wonder if she is sick. Was I being too hasty in agreeing to be her companion?

"Well, for the time being, let us leave this place. It's almost noon, so we can eat lunch after we move somewhere. While eating, we can discuss what we'll do in the future. Sounds good, Ichinose-san?"

"Y-Yes, I agree! Let's do that."

(TN: I'm not really sure if I translated the next paragraph accurately.)

Ichinose-san screams out an answer in response to my question. She looks beautiful when she is quiet, but I feel slightly disappointed for some reason. This isn't good. I should be more firm.

"Great. Momo, Aka, is this okay for you guys as well?"



“Wan!”

Although Momo responds with great vigor, I do not hear a response from Aka.

“Aka?”

When I gently touch Aka which is disguised as my clothing, it stops mimicking and returns to its slime form.

“Kya, what’s happening?”

The part of Aka which was mimicking the knit-hat on Ichinose-san’s head also returns to its original form. Afterwards, Aka starts trembling violently.

“Aka, what’s happening? Why are you shaking so much?”

Aka doesn’t provide any answer and continues to tremble. What is going on? Wait a second. Didn’t something similar happen before...

“Is it possibly-”

I immediately check the status screen... as I thought.

Aka

Red Slime LV 10

Aka’s level is at 10. It must have leveled up just now during our battle with the shadow wolves. That means-

“~~~ Furu Furu!!”

Aka starts trembling even more intensely. Then, it is wrapped by a blinding light.

“Is it... evolving?”

It’s just like what happened with Momo. Growth upon reaching the level limit. After a few seconds, the light fades away. There, I see Aka who has evolved.

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Chapter 68

Source: Cipher

Report

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Translator’s Note: Just to clarify, “city center” refers to “the center of the city”.

Now, it’s about time we start making our way to the city center. However, we won’t be walking there as that would be overly time consuming.

“Shall we use this as our means of transportation?”

I take “that” out from the Item Box.

“This is... a motorcycle?”

“Yes. With this, turning around won’t pose a difficulty and traveling would be faster.”

Although I have retrieved other cars and motorcycles, I took out the one without any punked tires and the least amount of damages. While this one isn’t in its perfect state, there shouldn’t be any problem in riding it. What? Stolen goods? Don’t even mention it at this point.

"It'll be fine."

“Huh?”

"I also realized this just now. Apparently, the skill 'Silent Operation' works on things that I am in contact with as well."

"No, that's not what I'm trying to say..."

With the SP that I gained through the recent level up, I acquired the skill “Riding”. The “Riding” skill seems to apply to driving, with its effects

“Aka, please split and mimic some helmets. Momo, you should enter the shadows.”

“... Furu Furu.”

Now my face won't be seen (TN: 顔が隠れるI'm assuming that the author is talking about the protagonist's face being covered by the helmet.) Momo

is hiding in the shadows, so there isn't anything to worry about as we move. I toss over the other helmet which Aka is mimicking as to Ichinose-san.

"Ichinose-san, let's get going."

"..."

However, Ichinose-san stands frozen with the helmet on her hands. What's the problem?

"Oh, are you perhaps hesitant about sitting behind a male?"

If that's the case, you would have to endure a bit... I'll try my best not to be conscious of the occasional touches.

"No, it's not that..."

Ichinose-san averts her eyes awkwardly as if it's difficult to say it out loud.

"... I tend to throw up very quickly when I am on a vehicle..."

Is that so... I can't really do much about that...

"I'm really sorry..."

Ichinose-san sincerely apologizes while bowing her head.

"No, there's no need to apologize."

Anyways, throwing up while forcefully riding is a bit... that. There's also the danger of being tracked down because of the smell.

"... Furu Furu."

Aka, who is disguised as a helmet on Ichinose-san's hands, starts to shake.

'If you put me on, it'll be alright', Aka seems to claim. Aka... are you thinking of absorbing everything that Ichinose-san pukes out?

"... Furu Furu."

'Yes', replies Aka. Well, for Aka, they're no different from food.

"Wan!"

Momo, who is hiding inside the shadows, produces a seatbelt using parts of the shadow. It's as if she is trying to say that Ichinose-san will be fine if she is fixed in place. Do these two think of Ichinose-san as some sort of luggage that needs to be transported while moving to another house? No, I want to believe that they are doing this out of pure consideration for Ichinose-san.

"... Ichinose-san. Aka and Momo are willing to go to such lengths for you.

Can you, perhaps, try a bit harder?"

When I asked, Ichinose-san spits out a response after much consideration.

"..... Sure."

Her reply was barely audible and extremely unreliable. Nevertheless, I have received her answer. Now, let's leave (TN: It's really about time that you do.). With Ichinose-san fixed in place behind me, we started to head towards the city center. Afterwards, Ichinose-san successfully gained the skill

"Motion Sickness Tolerance" due to her severe motion sickness. All in all, it was a profit. Furthermore, everything that she threw up was absorbed by Aka. It is such a reliable slime. After around ten minutes or so, we arrive at the center of the city. I can't feel any human presence, so I stop the bike at an inconspicuous location.

"We should get off around here."

"..... Yes."

Even with her helmet on, I can see that her face is blue. While shaking heavily, she comes off the bike. Even so, it is impressive that she is still holding her gun firmly. After confirming that Ichinose-san has come off, I store the bike in the Item Box.

"So where are we going first?"

"Yeah... let us first walk around and gather supplies from supermarkets and convenient stores. Also, I remember that there is a high school nearby. We can gather information there."

While hiding, of course. With the occupations and skills that Ichinose-san and I possess, we can take action even within buildings. Rather, for Ichinose-san, she can only display her true prowess inside buildings.

"High school..."

"Yeah, it's where I attended. How about Ichinose-s.... Ah."

I realize that I misspoke only after I have said it. She was a Hiki Komori. And she's said that she dropped out in the middle of high school. I'm sure that it isn't something that she wants to remember.

"You don't have to worry about me. I also attended that school before. Despite only having unpleasant memories..."

Suddenly, Ichinose-san's face is covered by a shadow.

"High school huh... I'm sure that the school is in tatters after being sabotaged by monsters. Rather, that will make me relieved. That kind of place deserves to be destroyed. Destroy, destroy, be destroyed. I hate schools. I loathe them. I also despise my classmates who didn't extend a helping hand. They should be killed along with the school! Fufufufufu, ahahahahahahaha!"

"C, calm down Ichinose-san!"

Ichinose-san returns to normal when I shake her shoulders.

"Huh...? Sorry. Something strange within me was switched on again..."

"Ah, no. It's fine."

Well, to be honest, it totally isn't fine. As I thought, this girl, she's sick somewhere. Her thoughts are so dark.

"Uh, if it's inconvenient on your part, do you want to look for another place?"

We don't have to purposely stimulate her traumatic memories by heading there. To begin with, the only reason I decided on that place is because of its proximity.

"It's fine."

Unexpectedly, Ichinose-san turns down by suggestion.

"Even so -"

"It's fine."

"Ah, okay."

I was completely cut off.

"And... there was one."

"Huh?"

"There was one person I was close friends with. I hope that person isn't dead yet..."

"Is that so..."

A close friend huh. I didn't have one though. In that regards, I'm slightly jealous.

"It would be great if that person is also alive, wouldn't it."

"... Yes."

She replies sincerely while smiling and turning her head away. In this manner, we decided to move towards school while gathering supplies.

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Chapter 69

Source: Cipher

Report

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Before we arrive at the school, we need to obtain some supplies for ourselves. We should go to a nearby convenience store or supermarket.

"Speaking of which, Kudou-san. About acquiring food..."

"Yes?"

"Supermarkets are fine and all, but if you want to get them in bulks, isn't it better to look for wholesale markets or a warehouse of a distributor or an agricultural cooperative? There might be things like stockpiled rice, pre-shipment vegetables, and seeds."

I-indeed, if they're put in my Item Box, they won't rot, so that's also a viable option.

"Yes... but I'm ashamed to say that I'm not aware of where those places are."

Agricultural cooperatives are near the government offices, but I don't know where the warehouses and storages are. It will take some time to search for them. The wholesale market is also quite a distance away and is in the opposite side of the city center. This would take a lot of time as well.

" 'Map' "

When Ichinose-san asks for it, a 3D map appears in front of her eyes. It's the "Map" skill that she has. She says she received this through Gatcha as well. Some degree of searching can be done; it's almost like Goo○ Map. I mean, Ichinose-san calls me a cheat, but I think the same goes for Ichinose-san. Her draws are too good. It's to the point where people who invest a lot in games will yell "Don't mess with us".

"The warehouse is... quite a bit of distance away."

The numerous blinking points on the map must be where the warehouses of agricultural cooperatives are. They're all quite far away. Hmm, then we should put this aside. Besides, it'll be difficult for other people to move things outside the warehouses if they don't have Item Boxes like me. Even if

they do have the skill, their skill levels will be low if they don't have point bonuses like I do.

"Then let's just proceed as planned. We can go to those places afterwards."

"Yes."

As such, we searched around for nearby convenience stores. While we are moving, I am carrying Ichinose-san on my back. It's faster this way. I notice while carrying her that Ichinose-san's chest doesn't possess much prowess. There's nothing to worry about.

"...I wonder why. I'm suddenly feeling extremely dissatisfied."

"It's just your imagination. Please put down your nails."

Regarding our appearance, we look exceedingly suspicious as we have a gun and a knife on us with helmets covering our entire face. If this is before, we would have been reported for sure. I would certainly report it. Well, with my skills and Aka's mimicry, it should be fine. Nevertheless, as expected of the city's core. There is much more human presence than in the suburbs. There are also many signs of monsters. "Detect Enemy" has been ringing since a while ago.

"A lot of people are outside..."

"Indeed..."

The numbers are surprising even considering the fact that most of them are people looking for evacuation centers. Since they don't have any skills, we're unlikely to get detected.

"It's eerie that we aren't being noticed to this degree."

"Well, it's because we're specialized in covert actions."

As we move, "Odorless", "Silent Operation", and "Attention Cut-off" are being used. Inside the stores, Ichinose-san's "Cognitive Impediment" gets activated too. Inside buildings, "Cognitive Impediment" makes it difficult for others to recognize the existence of the user. Apparently, because I am in contact with her, the effect is extended to me as well. This is a powerful skill that was able to deceive even Momo's nose. It's very dependable. Unless we're facing opponents like the high orc and the dark wolf, we wouldn't have to be worried about being found.

"Ah, Kudou-san, that..."

"Hmm?"

I look at the direction where Ichinose-san is pointing. There is a monster there.

"... it's a slime."

There are three slimes present at the garbage dump. As usual, they are absorbing the trash while furu furu-ing. This is something for Aka to take care of.

"Aka."

"... Furu Furu."

Approaching the slimes, Aka undoes a part of its mimicry and stretches it out like a tentacle. Then, with a "Churuun", it absorbs the three slimes.

"Aka's just like a vacuum cleaner."

Yeah, it is as you say. It's has a significant suction power. After checking that Aka has fully absorbed the slimes, we quickly leave the scene.

Thereafter, we went to places like the convenience stores, general stores, and supermarkets to secure supplies. While the interiors were in a mess, there were some supplies remaining. As I predicted, Item Box seems like a precious skill. After that, we went to the high school having replenished the necessary supplies. A few minutes later, we arrived near the perimeter of the school. Since we didn't encounter any powerful monster, we were able to reach our destination faster than we have predicted. From here, I can already sense the presence of several humans. It seems refugees are gathering here.

"Chi, it's not destroyed."

Ichinose-san is saying something, but let's ignore it. Rather than that, I am feeling a relatively strong presence within the school. And it's numerous. Most probably, there are people with skills inside. While their levels aren't known, the quality of information that I could get from them should be decent.

"Hm...? That is..."

I use "Telephoto" while hiding in the shadow and witness a familiar face near the school gate. It's Nishino-kun. And a fancy high school girl...Rikka-chan, was it? In addition, there is also Ishizawa-san, the newlywed, and the sports girl. Seems like they are all well. Thank goodness. Nishino-kun is currently communicating with the person standing watch near the gate. What are they talking about? Even with "Listening Ears", I can't hear anything from this distance. Nishino-kun enters the school, having finished his talk.

"Do you see an acquaintance?"

"Ah, no. He's not really an acquaintance."

"Is that so. As someone who doesn't have the skill, I can't see from so far away."

No, to begin with, if you can see with your naked eyes the same thing I'm seeing with "Telephoto", that'll truly be a cheat. Putting that aside, we should enter the school from somewhere where the guard isn't tight. As long as we enter the building, Ichinose-san's skill should also come into effect. It'll be great if I can get some useful intelligence. While expecting such, we look for places where we can use to infiltrate.

While this is happening -

The dark wolf was running around in the city center. The wound hurt. It had been negligent. It was unbelievable that the human possessed so much strength. It far exceeded its expectations. Thanks to that, the pack was half-destroyed, and it was also inflicted with some wounds. The damages were devastating. However, there were some gains as well. The individual that it had been seeking ever since the world collapsed. At long last, it was found.

"It's that dog."

The dog that stood besides the human. From that dog, it was able to feel the aura of its mate.

"That dog is the one—"

There is no doubt. It was able to meet at last.

"Wait just there."

It was determined to bring it back. But it shouldn't be impatient. For now, it was necessary for it to heal its wounds and accumulate more power.

"First, it is necessary to regroup..."

In order to prevent being chased, they fled in different directions. For them, it wasn't a major problem as they had a superior sense of smell. They would be able find each other very soon. While sniffing for the smell of the herd, several goblins appeared.

"Unable to even comprehend the difference?"

Despite its warnings, the goblins readied their weapons with their empty eyes. How ignorant. But it was perfect. As of now, it needed to heal, even if it was a little. Its opponents also looked as if they wanted a fight, so there shouldn't be any complaints.

"Die."

The dark wolf deployed its "darkness" and massacred the goblins in seconds. Near its feet, the magic stones of the goblins rolled about.

"I'll be having them then."

It stretched its neck to eat the magic stones. Precisely at that moment, chains emerged from the magic stone and wrapped around its neck.

"!?"

What? Unpleasant chains that jingled and caused metallic sounds. It panicked due to the sudden occurrence.

"What is this chain?!"

Although it tried to break it, it couldn't be broken. Although it tried to shake it off, it couldn't be shaken off.

"Ahyahyahya! Iyaa, lucky. To think I'll catch something so big. Ahm super lucky."

An annoying voice was suddenly heard from behind. Who was this human? Where did he come from? No, more than anything, were these chains the work of this man?

"Guraaaaaaaaa!"

"Oops. It's futile to try and shake it off. All the conditions have been met. From now on, I'm your lord, you dog."

Conditions? Lord? What were those? What was this human talking about? Unwillingly, it lost its strength, and something uncomfortable started moving about in its body. A majority of its consciousness was sapped, and it was replaced with something entirely different.

"As I thought, it's perfect, this occupation of Monster Tamer. It was the right choice, hyahyahyahya—"

The annoying voice started to fade. It gradually lost its consciousness. No, there was still something that it had to accomplish. There was someone that



it had to pick up. However, its struggle to maintain its consciousness was for naught. The dark wolf completely lost its consciousness.

“Great, the slavery is complete. It’s time to return to school. If I don’t hurry, they might start to grow suspicious.”

Satisfied, the man left the scene.

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Chapter 71

Source: Cipher

Report

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Leaving the student council office, we walk around the school again. That president seems dangerous in many ways. When she was talking, “Detect Danger” reacted. It wasn’t during a battle, and nor was I facing a monster. The fact that “Detect” Danger” activated while eavesdropping could only mean that it was a skill. Since it affected me, who was hiding behind a wall, it is probably due to her voice. It was a voice that seemed to cause some mysterious sensation, and it might have some kind of effect on those that are listening. For example, it could be like “Enchantment” or “Brainwashing”. As there is something like “Negotiation”, it wouldn’t be weird if such skills existed. In fact, Nishino’s attitude clearly changed in the middle of the conversation. I think he was under the influence of her skills. The reason why I wasn’t affected might be because the skill only works on one target. It might also be because the effect weakens with increasing distance. Either way, I was lucky. If the skill had an effect on everyone listening, Ichinose-san and I might have been -. Thinking so, a shiver runs up my spine. I might have been off guard thinking that we were merely gathering information instead of fighting with monsters. It might’ve been because of my confidence towards our covertness.

“Damn. Am I an idiot or what? I was too unalert...”

Unless I know the opponent’s skills and professions, there shouldn’t be any harm in being cautious.

“Um, Kudou-san, what’s wrong? You’ve been making a scary face since a while ago...”

“Oh, sorry. I was just feeling irritated at my stupidity...”

“...Sorry?”

Ichinose-san makes a confused face while tilting her head. Right, unlike me, Ichinose-san doesn’t have “Listening Ears”, so she doesn’t know what they were talking about. I briefly summarize the conversation that transpired in the room and the possibility of the Student Council President’s skill.

“... I see. That is certainly troubling.”

After listening to my story, Ichinose-san nods and replies so. Just in case, we are now around the corner of a stairway that is a distance apart from the

student council room. Even though we haven't been found out by a skill, it's still better to talk in places where people don't come by often.

"That student council president is probably someone called Ichinose-san. When I was in my first year, she was already part of the student council... well, she was somewhat of a famous student."

"Hee, is that so... h-huh?"

Wait a sec. I think I just heard something that I cannot pass by.

"When you were in your first year?"

"Ah..."

Ichinose-san seems to have caught up as well.

"So, yeah... I should be in my 3rd year of high school... If I had passed, that is. I dropped out last year..."

Are you serious. A fact that was finally revealed. No wonder her skins are so smooth.

"So it was like that."

Hearing my thoughtless reply, Ichinose-san laughs at me.

"Yes, yes. You... you're allowed to laugh, you know? I also realize that a high school Hiki Komori who quit school is... like... a typical..."

"What? No, I'm not going to laugh at you."

"Huh...?"

Even though she occasionally goes into self hate, I should tell this to her clearly.

"Ichinose-san, I didn't decide to accept you as my companion based on your academic records. Whether or not you dropped school and became a Hiki Komori is unimportant. The fact that Ichinose-san saved Momo and I while putting herself in danger is what's important. And that's all that matters."

At the time, if Ichinose-san didn't shoot that bullet to cover us, I would've been killed by the high orc for sure. No, even before that, if she didn't provide me with the information, I could've been stuck in a difficult situation.

"That's why I started to think that 'this person is someone I can trust, and I want to be friends with her'. Am I right, Momo?"

"Wan!"

Momo barks in agreement after coming out of the shadows. And then, it gets on Ichinose-san's knees and rubs its body. Muu, recently, I feel like Momo is suspiciously intimate with Ichinose-san... I'm so jealous of her.

"..."

On the other hand, Ichinose-san is in a dazed state. Huh? Did I say something weird? I thought I said something good. With a tiny voice, she says,

"That just now was unfair."

"Eh?"

With a "Pui", she turns away.

"Nothing. Rather, what should we do from now on?"

"A-ah, right."

We went off track.

"First and foremost, I was thinking of leaving this place."

Although I want to gather a bit more information, it would be for the best if we don't stay here for a long time considering the president's skill. Of course, it would be a different matter if we have a resistance skill.

"Is that okay?"

"Yeah, also-"

I look around our surrounding from the corner of the stairs. I see many students moving about in a hurry.

"I think it's a bad idea to accidentally stir things up..."

Without a shred of a doubt, the school is much more disciplined than initially expected because of the existence of the student council and the president. If the skill can manipulate others' consciousness or emotion, it is understandable that there is very little confusion among this chaos.

Although she is someone who has two distinct faces, it is undeniable that she is the one who has been organizing the students and the refugees. It would be better to avoid unnecessary trouble. It's true that I'm slightly worried about what will happen to Nishino-kun, he should be considered a valuable asset due to his skills and his experience with slaying monsters. At the very least, he won't be tossed aside after being ordered around. Overall, this was a meaning venture considering the fact that we were able to obtain some information about this place's top authority. It also reminded me that I should stay vigilant even when I am facing humans. We will act on our own to gather supplies and raise levels. Then, we could come back to gather more information when the time is right. Furthermore, it's not like we have to stick to this place. We can collect information from other shelters. It won't be too late to consider whether or not to join a community after observing the people and the location. Adding on, with the "Mail" skill, we can establish contact without revealing our identities. Being overly cautious is not a bad this. At least in this world, that is.

"From now on, let's just level up and gather supplies as planned."

We could try out the agricultural cooperative and the wholesale markets that Ichinose-san mentioned earlier. It's a chance to get our hands on a massive amount of necessities. Since that's the case, when I have my next level up, I should expand my "Item Box". That said, if we can move with the bike, it would be great. Is there a way to remain inconspicuous while we ride the bike? It was when I was thinking about these issues. Suddenly, "Detect Enemy" and "Detect Danger" show a reaction.

"This... is...?"

It doesn't feel good. This is the presence of a monster. And it's quite dangerous. It's closing in on us. So it's coming from the gate.

"Uuuu..."

Momo sensed it too apparently. She enters combat mode.

"It's a monster! A monster has appeared!"

I hear a scream from a distance. Signs of unrest start to appear within the school. Sounds of footsteps coming down the stairs. They seem to have noticed the abnormality.

"What are their unique traits? How many of them are here?"

"It's just one monster that looks like a huge wolf! But it's too strong! It possesses weird abilities too! Quick! We need reinforcements!"

"Understood!"

A huge wolf? Strange abilities?

"Is it perhaps..."

I look towards Ichinose-san. She also sneaks a peek at me and nods.

"Momo."

"Wan!"

Momo quickly reenters the shadows. Carrying Ichinose-san on my back, we quickly make our way towards the school gate.

"Don't let it enter the school!"

"We need to make it halt!"

"H-hey! Help has arrived!"

"There is but one enemy to face!"

"Keep your guards up!"

"Stop it together!"

We watch the scene play out from a corner. Many students have already gathered and begun fighting.

"Garurururu..."

The opponent that they are facing is one that we recognize. A wolf like figure covered in black fur. Its scarlet eyes are burning brightly, and the "darkness" which is capable of swallowing anything is spreading out from its feet. There is no room for error. That is the dark wolf which we battled with. To think it could recover in such a short timeframe. But... why is it here?

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Chapter 72

Source: Cipher

Report

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I observe the confrontation between the students and the dark wolf. There are around a dozen students, who I suspect all possess skills. The way they move is completely different from students without skills. Even so...

"...I wonder. Why is that monster here?"

Ichinose-san asks in confusion. She seems to have the same question as I do.

"We won't know unless we ask the monster itself."

As of now, the flow of the battle is favoring the dark wolf. Although the students are far superior in terms of number, the dark wolf's prowess is

overwhelming them. The students are able to hold out only because of the damages that we inflicted during our fight. It is clear that the dark wolf's movements are a bit sluggish. It seems to be fairly weakened. But this only makes the situation more mysterious. Why has it appeared here? If it is for the experience, it makes sense that it would strike at an evacuation center. Yet that could have waited until it was fully healed. That way, there would be a higher chance of success. During our battle, the dark wolf revealed its intelligence by retreating when the situation was unfavorable for the wolves. So it should understand the logic behind waiting. However, in reality, it is here fighting with the students. Knowing this, I can't help but feel uncomfortable.

"Uooooooooooooooooon!"

The dark wolf roars. The "darkness" near its feet starts expanding, taking in everything in the surrounding.

"Everyone! Make sure you don't touch that black thing on the ground! You'll get sucked in!"

The person giving orders is a nervous looking student with glasses on. From his voice, could he be the vice president of the student council? He is passing around commands from a location that is a fair distance away from the front lines. His action of raising his glass seems truly natural. He must be the intelligent type. Smart Glasses-kun.

"Uwahhhhh!"

"Save me!"

I guess two of them weren't able to retreat quickly enough. Their feet is being caught by the "darkness".

"Fools! What are you guys doing! Get out of there quickly!"

"But Vice-President! Even if you say that, these things won't budge!"

"Neither can I... it is pulling on me!"

Smart Glasses-kun shouts in frustration, but the two students fail to escape. On the contrary, they seem to be sinking into the "darkness" much more as they struggle to escape.

"Tch, incompetent trash... whatever! Ignore them! The rest of you should resume your attacks!"

Hey hey, you're going to throw them away so easily, Smart Glasses-kun? How heartless. But then again, it is the right decision. If he tries to rescue them recklessly, a secondary accident might result.

"But, Vice-President..."

"Are, are we abandoning them?"

"They're still alive, you know?"

The students under his command, on the other hand, seem unused to the situation. They show a strong desire to save their comrades. In response, Smart Glass-kun strikes the iron pipe on his hand on the ground.

"You guys! Whose orders are you contradicting! I'm someone who got permission from President Igarashi regarding everything that happens during battles. If you disobey me, you're also disobeying the President!"

“ “ “....! ” ” ”

Listening to his words, the students grow silent.

“That’s it. You guys just have to follow my instructions without saying anything.”

He states so while looking satisfied. The two students who were late in their escapes have looks of despair on their face.

“Kudou-san, what shall we do?”

To save or not to save, that is the question.

“Currently, there isn’t any merit in saving them.”

I clearly state my opinion to her. To save them means to reveal ourselves in front of the others.

“If we randomly charge in, we might be put under the effects of ‘Enchantment’ or ‘Brainwashing’.”

I’m most worried about being put under the effects of their skills. That President has a skill that can disrupt others’ thought process through her voice. That means that there is a chance that other members of the council have similar abilities. At the very least, I want to avoid revealing ourselves without first knowing the skills that they have...

“....that is... true...”

Ichinose-san agrees. However, while she understands my thought process, she is struggling to accept it. If you think about it, before she sent me her first mail, she even bothered to help some delinquents. Unlike me, she isn’t truly cut off with the rest of society.

“I think it’ll be alright, Ichinose-san.”

“Eh...?”

“It seems like reinforcements have arrived.”

I point towards the school building. There is someone running at an incredible speed. That figure dashes past Smart Glasses-kun and comes to an abrupt halt in front of the two students that were about to be swallowed.

“Uwah, Tanaka-chi and Kato-chin, you guys are in a pinch. Are you guys okay?”

Contrary to her words, the girl’s tone is rather relaxed. The person who appeared is a gal-like high school student with her hair in a side-tail.

“A-Aisaka Rikka! Are you here as reinforcement? Hey, what are you doing?”

While Smart Glasses-kun look infuriated, she doesn’t seem to mind.

Grabbing onto their hands, she tries to pull them out. Nevertheless, it isn’t easy to get rid of the “darkness” that is grabbing on to them.

“Un, I guess brute forcing it won’t work. In that case...”

She takes out a billhook that was hanging on her waist. The face of the duo that sees this intensifies. They must have realized what she is “about to do”.

“Eh, wai-, Aisaka-san?”

“I’m sorry for doing this.”

At the next moment, she uses the billhook and amputates their legs mercilessly. Blood splashes and the two students are simultaneously separated from the bindings of the “darkness”. Screams are heard

throughout. Dragging the students' bodies, she quickly moves away from the front line.

"Okay! The rescue was a success!"

The girl nods in satisfaction as she puts down the two people that she has rescued. The students were stunned at her behavior which contained no hesitation.

"You-you guys! What are you guys being amazed by! Don't hold back on your attacks!"

Smart Glasses-kun, who returns to his senses the fastest, once again starts to blare out orders. The students also recommence their offense.

"My feet..."

"I-it, it's p-painful..."

"I'm really sorry. But it's better than dying, right?"

Rikka-chan replies so to the two who are making bitter expressions. Well, it's true. In a situation like that, that was the only method available.

"Really, how barbaric you are. This is why delinquents are..."

Raising his glasses, Smart Glasses-kun glares at Rikka-chan.

"But if I didn't do this, they would've been killed."

"And who care about that? I have no need for trash that can't follow instructions."

"Uwah, that's repulsive."

"Say whatever you want. Anyways, if you're satisfied with saving the two of them, you should follow my commands now."

Faced with the arrogant words from Smart Glasses-kun, Rikka-chan expresses discontent.

"Haaa? And why the hell should I-"

"Rikka, listen to the orders."

Nishino-kun enters and breaks the tense atmosphere. Apparently, he has rushed here as reinforcement as well.

"Nisshi?"

"For the time being, he is the commander here. I'll act as support, so you should obey his instructions."

"Muuu. Okay."

Rikka-chan seems to reluctantly agree under the persuasion of Nishino-kun.

Wielding the billhook, she enters the fight with the dark wolf. The battle starts to tilt towards their favor as Rikka-chan and Nishino-kun enter the field. While maintaining a distance to avoid being swallowed by the "darkness", the students begin casting long ranged attacks. They are most likely trying to deplete the dark wolf's stamina and make it a battle of attrition. To begin with, the dark wolf was injured during its fight against us. If they drag this on, they might truly have a chance at defeating it.

"The monster is running away!"

The dark wolf knows this too. It forcefully breaks through the encirclement and escapes to the city streets.

"Oi, don't let it escape! Chase after it!"

"Wait."

Smart Glasses-kun immediately tries to give chase, but he is stopped by Nishino-kun.

"What are you doing, Nishino?"

"Chasing it is dangerous. Right now, we should prioritize the healing of injured personnel."

"What kind of thing are you... You saw how strong that monster was, right? It's dangerous to let a monster like that go. We should slay it when we could. Are you going against the order of this commander? Against me, who received full permission from President Igarashi?"

"That is only if that monster is alone."

"What...?"

"Aisaka and I have fought against those kinds of monsters before in the home center. They move in flocks and possess skills like a howl that could summon its kind. What will you do if there are a lot of them after you give chase? What if it had called for its friends? The tables would immediately be turned. We'll get annihilated."

Nishino-kun's words bring about a commotion from the surrounding. His words are neither lies nor exaggerations. Smart Glasses-kun clicks his tongue in anger.

"...Fine. I'll listen to your warnings for now. But don't forget that I am ultimately the leader here."

Saying that, Smart Glasses-kun walk towards the school building. Seeing this, Nishino-kun lets out a deep sigh. As if they could finally relax, most of the students sit down on their spots.

"It seems... like everything has come to an end..."

"..."

"Huh? Ichinose-san?"

There isn't any reply. What's the issue? When I look at Ichinose-san, I see her staring at one location.

"W...why...?"

Where she is staring stood a gal like high school girl.

"Ricchan..."

Eh? Ricchan?"

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Chapter 73

Source: Cipher

Report

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"Why... How?"

Like a broken recorder, Ichinose-san repeats the same phrase over and over again. An acquaintance... or perhaps the person she said she was close with? .... This girl? She looks like the type that is the polar opposite of



Ichinose-san... hmm, let's ignore that for now. I should focus on the topic of the dark wolf. What shall I do? Track it down? If I make a move right now, I can catch up to it. Nishino-kun doesn't know this, but the dark wolf's pack has already been virtually decimated by us. Furthermore, the dark wolf itself is in a weakened state as well. It's the perfect opportunity to kill it.

"Wan!"

Momo has come out of its shadow and is pulling on the hem of my clothes. Momo seems to be in favor of chasing it down. She's being more aggressive than ever before. It's decided. We'll track it down with Momo's superior sense of smell. Until now, we have been chased around quite a bit. It's about time we counterattack. Let's put an end to this here.

"Ichinose-san, we're going to give chase. Please ride on my back."

We can travel faster with her on my back. Since Ichinose-san chest doesn't give off exceptional sensations, I won't get distracted either. Now, come on.

"....Huh? Ichinose-san?"

There isn't any reply. What's up with her? When I look back, I see Ichinose-san still staring at Rikka-chan. So it distracts you to such an extent.... But hey! What is she doing? Ichinose-san shakes off my hands, walks forward with wobbly steps, and opens her mouth.

"Ri-"

I try to stop her, but I don't make it in time.

"Furu Furu~!"

At that moment, Aka's clone which was on Ichinose-san's body clogs her mouth. Then, Momo binds Ichinose-san with her shadow.

"Mu~~~! Mu~~~!"

"I apologize, please bear with it for a moment."

Carrying Ichinose-san, I sprint with my maximum speed and leave the area.

That was close. We almost got discovered.

"You seem to have met an old acquaintance, but please be patient."

"..."

"There is a student council member there along with countless other students. To reveal ourselves at this point in time isn't a wise move."

"..."

"Since you've physically seen the person, you should be able to use the 'Mail' function. Later on, you can converse with her using that. If you must, you can set up a place where you guys can meet in secret. So please restrain yourself for now."

I try my best to persuade Ichinose-san while I am on the run.... Ah, damn.

Talking while sprinting is quite exhausting. My stomach is aching. With the rise in status, I am able to travel at an incredible speed while carrying a girl. But why is it that thing like this hasn't changed? Blast it. Hmm? Wait a minute. How do we look like right now from the perspective of other people? A man (me) wearing a helmet and carrying a gun (Ichinose-san's gun), running with ragged breaths while pulling along a beautiful girl who is wrapped in black rope (Momo) and gagged (Aka's disguise)... This is bad.

There is only one interpretation of this scene. It is totally a case that has to be reported. B-but well, whatever. It's not like anyone can detect us with all my skills on. I've arrived at a location that is quite far away from the school. There shouldn't be any problem if we're all the way here. I don't feel any presence of humans nearby. I undo the restriction on Ichinose-san.

"Puh, ha, ha , ha..."

"I'm sorry for being so rough. However--"

"I'm really sorry!!!"

As soon as she came off my back, she performs a dogeza. What?

"I'm sorry for doing things at my own discretion and inconveniencing Kudou-san. Even though we're a team..."

Her voice is shaking, and she is trying to hold back her tears. Please stop. If a girl cries, it will unconditionally feel like I am in the wrong. So please stop. To begin with, what's up with her? Her attitude is completely different from just a few minutes ago. Oh, she must have converted back to her normal self after calming down.

"I-it's okay... I was able to interfere just in time, so there isn't any need to bow your head."

"I can't. I'm sorry... really...."

I'm telling you to stop because it makes me feel guilty.

"Why don't we take a break for a while? There, I see an empty house."

At our current state, we won't be able to handle the dark wolf. For the sake of calming her down, we must get some rest. We enter the vacant house.

"Your throat must be dry. Here, have a drink."

"..."

Taking out a can of coffee from the Item Box, I pass it over to Ichinose-san. It's a Demitas○ Premium coffee with a bit of sugar. It's sweet and delicious. I heard that this coffee is only sold in Tohoku, but I wonder if that's true.

"Wan!"

"I know, I know. I have your portion as well."

But you'll be having water, not coffee. Pouring the water in a pan, I hand it over to Momo. Sitting down, I also take some break. Yup, it's sweet. I can feel the caffeine and the carbohydrate permeating through my body.

"We should start moving again in a short while. As of now, Momo's nose should still be able to track the dark wolf."

"Wan!"

Momo gives her approval. Yeah, I'm counting on you. Momo's face looks so cute when I rub its head.

"...Aren't you going to ask me anything?"

Ichinose-san questions while fidgeting with the can coffee on her hands.

"About what?"

"You know... about what just transpired..."

I scratch my cheek with my finger.

"Well, it'll be a lie if I say that I'm not interested..."

Truth be told, I'm VERY curious. Even so--

"I don't want to strain the relationship that I have right now with Ichinose-san by asking you questions."

"...!"

For the foreseeable future, I want to keep her as a party member and have a smooth relationship. This is her problem, so I don't have the right to say anything about it. Everyone has secrets that they would want to keep. I am not an exception.

"For that reason, I'll leave this up to Ichinose-san. You can tell me whenever you feel like it. I'll wait until that time arrives."

If she wants to tell, she is welcome to do so. If she doesn't want to do so, she doesn't have to. I don't have the right to decide for her, so I'll just wait.

"...Okay. I'm grateful."

Hearing my speech, Ichinose-san gives me a subtle smile. She should be fine now.

"Now then, it's about time. Let's track down the dark wolf. Are you cool with that?"

"Yeah!"

Along with a cheerful reply, Ichinose-san receives the gun. Well then, it's time to continue on with our search. We shall pursue the dark wolf.

On the other hand, at the school-

"H-huh?"

"What's wrong, Rikka?"

"It's nothing. It's just that... I felt something nostalgic. I know this sounds ridiculous, but I think I heard Nattsun's voice."

"...You're kidding, right? There's just no way she's here."

"Exactly... what am I even saying."

"I'm surprised that you still remember her."

"That's a matter of course. I'll never forget her. After all, she was my closest friend."

"You mean the one you bullied the most. It amazes me that you can say that after cornering her to the point where she quitted school."

"Hahaha, you're right. It was like that. It was like that. Yup, this conversation ends here. Now, what are we doing next?"

"Treatment of the injured and meeting with the exploration team. Let's go."

"Yes~ Yes~"

You have gained experience.

Skill proficiency has reached a certain level.

Monster Enslavement has increased from LV 5 to LV6.

Familiar Enhancement has increased from LV 3 to LV 4.

"Chi... to think that none of them has died... Well, who cares. I've understood the extent of this guy's capabilities. The next one will be the real deal."

"Uuuuu...grrrrrr..."

"What is it with your eyes? Are you rebelling against your master? You're just a dog."

"Gyaun~"

"Ahhi~yahyahya! What's wrong! I thought you were dissatisfied! Hey! Hey!"

"Gaa...guu..."

"Ha! That's what you get for going against your master!"

"...."

"The world has become like this and I have obtained this power. I'll get anything I want. No one will get in my way."

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Chapter 78 Part 1

Source: Cipher

Report

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TN: Sorry for the really late update. This chapter is over 6100 letters long, so I'll split it in half.

A sudden sound of something being fired. A female student who was blown away. The people that were present froze in their tracks. It was as if time had stopped. They were unable to understand what had just transpired. After a few moments, however, someone screamed upon seeing the girl who had collapsed.

"K-KYAAAAAAAAA!"

"What is it? What's happening?"

"Katsuragi-san?"

"Hey, is everything alright?"

"I just heard something!"

And time started to flow again. Chaos ensued. Among the ruckus, Rikka, who had been standing next to the collapsed girl, was still immobile due to the shock.

(What... just... occurred?)

It was incomprehensible. The mail that arrived out of nowhere. The voice that she heard within her head. The name of the sender, the content of the mail, and the event that just happened. From the beginning, she didn't excel at thinking. By this point in time, her brain was experiencing an overheat as she failed to organize all the information.

(R-right, Katsuragi-chi is...)

She glanced at her classmate who had been blown away.

(...Eh? What does this mean...?)

Witnessing the sight, Rikka's made a surprised expression.

---We are watching all of this from the shadows.

"Ichinose-san"

"Y,yeah. I know."

Ichinose-san readies her gun without lowering her guard. Momo and I are also in combat mode. Why are we in this situation? If I am to explain, we would have to go back in time.

—Several minutes ago

We are undergoing our second infiltration.

“Okay, Momo, it’s all on you from now on.”

“Wafu.”

Momo replies with vigor. Momo is being carried around on Ichinose-san’s arms. By doing so, Momo also receives the effects of Ichinose-san’s “Cognitive Impediment”. Momo has to be outside of her shadows in order to sniff out the smells. This is the most efficient way of getting things done. Just for security, I have my skills activated too. We have to be ready to escape at any time if things go awry. In particular, I have “Detect Enemy” deployed at all times. Although the monster tamer is our primary concern, I don’t want to encounter the Student Council President either. It would be terrible if we are placed under the effects of “Brainwash” or “Bewitchment”. Since I know her presence, it should be fine as long as we keep our distance. While being carried around, Momo sniffs here and there

“That way...”

Momo shapes our shadows into arrows to indicate the directions we have to proceed in. While following her instructions, we lurk around the school... No one noticed us, right? When I look around, the students and the evacuees are walking pass us as if we didn’t exist. Despite knowing that we are safe, my heart pounds heavily.

“... There’s quite the commotion...”

Unlike when we first entered, we could feel the heavy atmosphere around us. The attack from the dark wolf must have been the cause. Students are moving about in a hurry, and we see multiple evacuees crying or shouting hysterically.

Nishino, I can remember the home center where you originally stayed at. The evacuees there were also creating a scene like this. It’s a wonder how these types of people never forget to assert themselves despite being virtually useless. To begin with, they are not in the position to complain while being protected by others. Mob mentality is truly troublesome. As long as there are enough people standing behind you, everything you say would sound justified. While thinking about this, two kids energetically pass us. They look alike. Are they twins?

“Hey, nee-chan, it’s real loud here. I won’t be able to take a nap.”

“Hahaha, lil’ brother. These guys are what we call ‘headless chickens’ You shouldn’t mind them.”

“Oooh, nee-cham, you’re amazing to know such a difficult word!... but what does that mean?”

“I have no idea!”

“As expected of nee-chan!”

Even in such an environment, the children are cheerful... Rather, I feel something powerful from these kids. Do they, perhaps, possess skills? From Momo's reactions, they don't seem like the monster tamer... It doesn't matter. As "Detect Danger" and "Detect Enemy" isn't setting off any alarms, leaving them aside is fine. We continue our search inside the building while listening to the kids' voice fade into the distance....

"-Huh?"

"What's wrong, lil brother?"

"... It's nothing. I think I sensed something peculiar just now?"

"...?"

---

A few minutes after entering the school.

Arriving at a certain point, Momo lets out a soft bark.

"Wafu"

We have arrived at the cafeteria. So the monster tamer is here... There are around a dozen or so noticeable presences. As of this point, "Detect Danger" isn't showing any form of reaction. We enter the cafeteria. The interiors are simple and open, with everywhere aside from the kitchen being visible from the entrance. There is a group of students gathered together. Within the group, I see several acquaintances. Nishino-kun, Rikka-chan, Smart Glasses-kun, and the sports girl from the shopping mall.

"Riccha...!"

Ichinose-san also notices her.

"Ichinose-san, I understand what you are feeling, but please hold yourself back."

"I-I know."

I wonder if she truly understands... Regardless, I am curious about what the students are discussing. Using "Listening Ears", I listen to the content of the discussion. They are trying to track down the monster tamer as well. They have arrived at the same conclusion as us, and it seems like the President was the one that took note of the abnormality. The students are about to go out to search for the tamer... As I expected, that President is clever. To reach the truth without having any prior knowledge of the situation. The only miscalculation she has made is about the location of the culprit. This is the case of a bug hiding on a lion. Momo sniffs each individual carefully before her gaze lands on a single person.

"Is 'that' who we're looking for?"

Momo nods. Ichinose-san's eyes open wide upon realizing who it is.

"Are, are you sure there isn't any mistake?"

"It's impossible for Momo to be wrong. Right?"

"Wan!"

Momo nods again, this time with confidence. So this person is the monster tamer...

Momo is staring at the sports girl from the shopping mall.

Her name is... oh, the word "Katsuragi" is printed on her jersey. That's her right? So she's Katsuragi. It is kind of unexpected. She doesn't look like the type of person that would command monsters to attack other humans. Or was she acting all along? There's a saying telling us not to judge a book by its cover and all that.

Now then, how should we act? Since we know who the monster tamer is, we could just send a mail to Nishino-kun and Rikka-chan, after which we would retreat. Although I've told Ichinose-san about meeting up with them, simply mailing them should do the trick. It should be enough as long as the information is passed on to them. Whether they choose to believe or not is up to them to decide, and there isn't any reason to go so far for them in the first place. Yup, that's right. Now that I think about it, why am I trying so hard to help others? It's a request from Ichinose-san, isn't it? It's true that she's a party member and she has saved me once, so until I pay her back... arriving at this point, I stop. Until I pay her back? But what will I do after I pay her back?

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Chapter 78 Part 2

Source: Cipher

Report

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An exceedingly ugly and terrible thought crosses my mind. Really, I shouldn't be thinking about these sorts of things...

"Kudou-san."

"Offu..."

Oh shoot. A strange sound came out.

".....What's wrong?"

"N-nothing... Rather than that, what is it?"

I glance at Ichinose-san from the side. I see determination in her eyes.

"This is just a speculation... but if I were to... snipe her from here, will it solve the problem?"

"...That, that's..."

I stutter in response to her suggestion. Indeed, while it's pretty extreme, if we get rid of the girl right here right now, everything will be solved. But to think Ichinose-san will bring it up herself...

"Can you... do it?"

"... I will."

Having said that, Ichinose-san positions her gun.

"Right now... right here, if I fin...finish her off, it will bring everything to an end. From this distance, I won't miss either... so I, I will--"

"Kill her? Ichinose-san, are you able to do it?"

Hearing my blunt usage of the word "kill", Ichinose-san falters momentarily.

“...I can. I was the one... who brought this up. I will take responsibility... for what I have said.”

“Even so...”

To a certain degree, she realizes the fact that we’re being dragged into this mess. That is why she is asserting that she should be the one to dirty her hands. However...

“Rejected. I will not permit you.”

“Why?”

“There are two reasons. First and foremost, if Ichinose-san pulls the trigger, regardless of whether or not the target dies, our existence might be revealed to the students here.”

Even though Ichinose-san’s “Cognitive Impediment” and “Sniping” are powerful, they are not all-encompassing. Because of the scope, it’s possible to notice her line of sight even with concealment skills activated. Another demerit is that once her opponent recognizes her, the effects of the skills gradually decrease. We can’t risk being exposed in front of all these people. I mean, a former-classmate wielding a gun while being accompanied by an unknown man who can control a shape-shifting slime and a dog with the ability to manipulate shadows? If things go wrong, we might be accused of being the monster tamers. Even escaping will be difficult at that point.

“Second, we can’t guarantee the death of our enemy as of now.”

“...And what do you mean by that?”

“I didn’t realize until I took a good look at her, but I sense an unpleasant feeling coming from her. More specifically, it’s coming from her shadows.”

“That means...”

With that, Ichinose-san seems to have also noticed.

“Yes, the dark wolf should be hiding within her shadow.”

No, there might even be other monsters lurking around in her shadow. After such a disturbance, it’s unlikely for her to enter her opponent’s headquarters defenseless. It won’t be weird for her to have some guards nearby. From that perspective, the dark wolf ability to cut off the presence of those in the shadows is very useful. She might also have slimes which have mimicking skills like Aka. In other words, in the worst scenario, a battle might erupt the moment we attack.

“It is as you have said, Kudou-san. Sorry for being so thoughtless.”

“It’s fine. For now, we should continue to observe her behaviors. A perfect opportunity to shoot might arise.”

Nodding, Ichinose-san lowers her gun. Immediately afterwards, Katsuragi draws herself near Nishino-kun and Rikka-chan. From an ignorant bystander’s perspective, they would seem like they are having a casual conversation. However, it was completely different from our angle.

“...!! Ricchan!”

“Y-you can’t! Please hold back!”

“But!”



"We can't be negligent and have our identities revealed. We should send a 'Mail'. As long as she moves away from the girl, we can protect her at the very least."

"Y-yes."

Ichinose-san hurriedly shoots a mail to Rikka-chan. Almost simultaneously, Rikka-chan shows a reaction.

"What is it, Rikka?"

"No, I thought I heard something just now. It said 'You've received a mail'."

"A mail?"

"Yes."

Fortunately, she received the mail. With this, Rikka-chan should move away from the monster tamer. This will do.

Just when I am entertaining such thoughts- I feel a shiver run across my body. "Detect Danger" activates.

"Eh?"

What an awful timing. Soon after we sent the mail, Katsuragi's, the monster tamer's, shadow moves. Nishino-kun isn't aware of this. Neither is Rikka-chan. Not to mention the other students. We are the only ones conscious of this fact. Is she planning on starting a rampage here? Impossible. What is she thinking? No, this isn't the time to get distracted.

"-Kudou-san!"

Ichinose-san has already positioned her gun. Stop! If you fire, our position would be exposed! We should just abandon her-No, shit!

"Fire!"

I was shouting when I noticed. Ichinose-san pulls the trigger without hesitation. The sound of gunshot is heard throughout. The bullet that was fired travels straight towards the eyebrows of the monster tamer... and is absorbed. Afterwards, she falls to the ground.

Silence. And then screams.

In the midst of chaos, we do not look away from the monster tamer who has fallen down. Just now... did it... miss? It looked like the bullet was sucked in. When I observe closely, I see that a small "darkness" has appeared on her forehead.

Is that the dark wolf's ability?

"That hurt..."

Words leak out of her mouth.

-Incoming!

The next moment, "darkness" spreads.

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Chapter 79

Source: Cipher

Report

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TN: Whoever has been updating the releases on Novelupdates, I thank thee.  
“Move away Rikka!”

Nishino-kun screams so. Reflexively, Rikka-chan jumps backward. Immediately, the “darkness” swallows up her previous location. That was really close. The “darkness” slowly envelops the cafeteria. Looking back, the students also stare at the “darkness” with expressions of disbelief.

“W-why is this happening...”

The perpetrator. The girl – No, the monster tamer who has been collapsed at the center wakes up. There isn’t any wound on her forehead. The bullet, however, is spit out and falls onto her hand. She looks at the bullet with interest.

“...Who is the shooter? As far as I know, there isn’t any ‘Sniper’ at this school...”

Having said that, she looks around. There, the sporty girl who was somewhat timid and unreliable was no more. The intimidation that surrounds her makes me feel like I’m facing a monster.

“Well, it doesn’t matter. I was going to kill everyone anyways... Hihi, ohyahyahyahyahyahya.”

With a crescent smile, she laughs hysterically while holding her forehead. She doesn’t seem like the same person as before. Her personality seems to have switched completely.

“What are you on about, Katsuragi-kun? What happened to you?”

From a distance, Miyamoto-kun (Smart Glasses-kun) yells. He still doesn’t understand what is happening. To be fair, most of the student population is confused about it. They’re just watching in a dazed state. Only the two of us... and Nishino-kun seem to be in the know. His eyes are also latched onto the monster tamer without putting down his guard. Even so, Rikka-chan, who is standing next to him, appears confused.

“Ah? What is it, Vice-President Miyamoto?”

The monster tamer glares at Miyamoto-kun. With just that, Miyamoto-kun falls onto his butt.

“Hiii....”

“Uwa, how lame. What are you pissing your pants for with just a glare? What happened to that arrogant attitude that you always have?”

A sarcastic tone. Effortlessly walking on top of the “darkness”, the monster tamer approaches Smart Glasses-kun in a friendly manner. She is defenseless, without any sign of protection. That in and of itself is eerie. As if trying to match her steps, the “darkness” spreads wherever she treads.

“Don’t, don’t come!”

“To be honest, I expected more from you. With you being President Igarashi’s right hand and whatnot, I thought you’ll be brighter... you turned out to be a mere sidekick.”

With a look of disappointment, she moves away from Miyamoto-kun. , she looks at Nishino-kun.

“As I thought, you’re the troublesome one. Aren’t ya, Nishino-kun?”

"Is that your true nature, Katsuragi-san?"

"True nature... I was like this from the beginning. It was just convenient to act like that in the past. Ya know, boys are weak against frail girls like that. They're like, willing to raise my level and try their best for everyone right? Hyahyahyaha."

She giggles while hiding her mouth. Suddenly, she stops laughing.

"I was thinking of living like that for my entire life. Enduring and enduring, all while killing my true self. I thought I'll live like that. I thought so..."

"However," she exclaims while spreading her arms and smiling with delight,

"The world changed! Open your eyes, Nishino! To this world! Monsters are everywhere! Death is everywhere! Game like elements such as levels and skills exist! How can I stay the way I was with things like this happening? Why would I endure like before? I can live however I want, in whatever manner I want! There's no longer a reason to wear my mask! There is nothing holding me back anymore! The rules and authorities of the past are no more! Who gives a shit about what happens to other people! Those that live as they want emerge victorious! Ahyahyahyahyahya!"

She says this while looking truly satisfied. The person who replies to her isn't Nishino-kun, but rather Miyamoto-kun who is some distance away.

"A-absurd! What are you saying, Katsuragi-kun!? Do you understand what kind of a perilous situation we are in? To think you are holding such beliefs...!"

He mourns in disappointment. She listens while seeming bored.

"Oh really. You can be disappointed all you want, sidekick."

Pachin-

She snaps her finger. The darkness wavers in response. Then, a monster starts crawling out from the darkness.

"Gigi..."

It's a goblin with hollow eyes.

"You were correct about there being someone who can control monsters. Buuuut"

She grins while crying loudly. The darkness spreads even further. The second goblin comes out from the darkness. Then, orcs and zombies begin appearing one after another.

"You guys weren't able to guess just how many of them I could control."

The students are stunned with terror and surprise. I also get fascinated by the scene. I was expecting monster tamers to be capable of controlling multiple monsters, but this... this is far beyond imagination.

Just by estimation, there are over 50 monsters of varying species. Hob-goblins and shadow wolves are also in the mix. She laughs violently while shaking her hand.

"—Kill. Kill all! Slaughter all! Change them all into experience!"

With her order, the monsters commence their march. They pounced at the students while bearing their fangs and wielding their weapons.

"U-UWAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!"

“Run!”

“It’s impossible to beat this number!”

“Help! Someone help!”

“What are you guys screaming for? Fight! Fight I tell you!”

Miyamoto-kun tries in vain to hold the students back from fleeing. The students were in a state of mild insanity. An overwhelming force of monsters. Facing such a reality, their hearts were devoured. The monsters move forth without mercy.

“Tsu! Rikka! Break the window!”

“Understood!”

Using the billhook that was hanging by her waist, Rikka-chan smashes the window. Realizing that he couldn’t do anything in the situation, Nishino-kun immediately chooses to escape.

“Hey, are you guys running away? Let’s hang out a bit more here!”

Bac! Katsuragi-san raises her hand. The next moment, the “darkness” below her feet moves at a tremendous speed towards the smashed glasses in a spider web formation.

“What!?”

Even so, two students manage to escape from the “darkness” by wiggling through. However, one of the male students who was trying to escape in a similar fashion is caught.

“Wh-what is this, I can’t move at all!”

The more he struggles to escape, the more threads of darkness entangle his body like a spider’s web. An orc gradually heads towards his direction.

“S-stop--GYAAAAAAA!”

There is no way for the student to retaliate with his body entangled in darkness and his freedom deprived. Along with a dull sound, a bloody body falls to the ground. Watching this, the monster tamer smiles with joy.

“I told ya I won’t let ya go!”

“Katsuragi...!”

Nishino-kun and Rikka-chan take their stance with their weapons drawn and gaze at her. Still, her expression doesn’t change.

“I like the face you guys are making! I’m getting hyped~~! But! You guys won’t be facing me!”

With a Zuzuzuzu, three orcs appear from the darkness once again. So she had more...

“Rikka!”

“I know!”

Nishino-kun and Rikka-chan take action as the orcs begin their attack. The battle starts.

“Now then-”

It’s about time we make our move. An unorganized battle that is occurring all around us. With this, we won’t be found even if we cause some disturbances. We won’t be able to escape either unless we deal with the darkness which is spread out like a web.

"Aka, please."

"Furu Furu..."

Upon request, a part of Aka which has been mimicking as my clothe splits itself and transforms into the orc's knife.

"I want Ichinose-san to provide some cover from here."

Nodding, Ichinose-san readies her gun.

"Okay, Momo... We're heading out."

"Wan!"

These many monsters. If you insist on doing this, I'll make sure I earn a lot of experience. Wearing a hood, I rush into the group of monsters along with Momo.

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Chapter 81

Source: Cipher

Report

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I close in on the monster tamer with the blade (Aka) on her neck. The plan was an improvised one, but it seems to have worked.

"Now, if you don't want to die, I'll have you listening to my instructions."

Despite saying this, my heart is shaking. The Negotiation skill is allowing me to articulate fluently, but I'm nervous inside. After all, I am currently pointing my blade at a human being, not some monster. I'm pointing it at a girl who isn't even an adult.

I have no problem fighting against monsters. Why am I so nervous against humans? I already know the answer. I haven't been able to sever my ties yet.

-It isn't good to injure other people. This was a common sense in everyday life. However, in this world, this idea is holding me back. The ideology still dwells within me. My mind understands that it's better to just kill and get things over with. I could also attack her limbs and capture her. Although I understand, I cannot execute it. I don't want to execute it...

If my Stress Tolerance levels up, I wonder whether I will grow numb to this kind of feeling. What if I had other types of tolerance such as Guilt Tolerance and Avoidance Tolerance?

... No, I should stop getting distracted and focus on the things in front of me.

"Don't think about resisting. Pacify the monsters this instant. You are capable of doing this right?"

Hearing my orders, the face of the monster tamer which showed fear softened. It was now a combination of surprise and relief.

"...You're quite the nice one."

"I want to finish this as peacefully as possible."

"Peacefully...you say..."

The monster tamer seems like she wants to say something, but she raises her hands instead. As if it's a signal, the monsters that were rampaging suddenly halt.

"H-huh?"

"They suddenly stopped."

"What's happening?"

The students that remain in the cafeteria are visibly shaken. Nonetheless, their voice contains some trace of relief.

"- Return."

With that, the darkness that surrounded the cafeteria fades away. Even the monsters that have calmed down are sucked back into the "darkness". Now, the panic from before seems like a lie.

"Are we saved?"

"Are we fine now?"

"Hey, who is that standing beside Katsuragi-san?"

"I can't see because of the hoodie."

"Is he the one that saved us?"

I'm at the center of attention. Well, I guess it can't be helped. Nishino-kun and Rikka-chan are also staring at my direction. Ichinose-san... still has her gun ready. She appears to be ready to shoot at any notice. But at least for now, everything is okay.

"Surprisingly, you complied without doing anything."

"It's cuz I don't wanna die."

She glares at me with irritation.

"Unexpected. I never imagined that someone like you would exist. Fuck."

"Is that so?"

"Ah, how unfortunate. I was super pumped to earn a bunch of experience..."

She speaks as if she has met with the "Game Over" sign in a video game.

It's the complete antithesis of how I felt a moment ago. She doesn't even see human life as important anymore.

"You're mad."

I say this without realizing that I have said it. Her eyes becomes round as if she didn't expect this.

"Am I? Who doesn't want to be at the top? In this world full of monsters, the concept of over-leveling does not exist. It's better to live like this than to live under the care of someone else. Don't you also have the desire to live as you please?"

To live as I please... Certainly, her words are not wrong in this new world. Those with powers are absolute. In the present world, values from the past possess no meaning. To live freely and to live one pleases sound like a winning deal.

"I won't... deny it. My life hasn't been anything worthy of praise either."

"Hee~"

She turns towards me and whispers so that only I could hear, "It's not too late you know. Why don't you join hands with me?"

I am given such a proposal.

"Huh?"

"From the looks of things, you have skills or occupations that are related to assassination. I can strengthen those skills you know? I also have an army of monsters in my arsenal. There aren't any demerits in having me as your ally. It isn't a bad idea right?"

Strengthen my skills? Does she have rare skills like my "Item Box" and "Precocious"? So that's why she can subordinate so many monsters...

"You think I'll agree to your plans? I can't trust you."

"Trust me. I don't wanna die either. Also, you and I have the same 'smell'. We'll make a great team. "

What is she saying after meeting me for the first time? To begin with, she's a lunatic that wanted to massacre everyone in this school. I shouldn't lend my ears to her. She's just trying to find an opening by saying things that would interest me.

"Sorry, but--"

""Ah! Found it!!!""

Voices that reverberates throughout the cafeteria interrupts me. At the entrance, there is a twin. They are the pair that we have seen before arriving here. There are traces of battle all over their bodies. As I thought, they are capable of using skills.

"Reinforcements have arrived."

"Tsk."

The monster tamer looks downwards as if she has given up. From her reaction, I can deduce that the twins aren't on her side.

"Oi, give yourself up!"

"Muhahahaha, I have found you, villain!"

Having said that, a fireball appears on the girl's hand and a spiral-shaped boulder appears on the boy's. Oh, are those magic skills? So those things exist. When I was having those thoughts, "Danger Detection" and "Enemy Detection" activate simultaneously.

"Villain! Move away from that person!"

"--What?"

That was a completely unexpected blow. Rather, it's more accurate to say blows. Well, that doesn't really matter. The thing is, the attacks were released towards me.

"Wa....!?"

Almost reflectively, I dodge the projectiles. The attacks hit the walls of the cafeteria, leaving parts of them burned or shattered. Uh, yeah... If I had been hit, I would've died for sure...

"Hey, what are you guys-gah!?"

The monster tamer doesn't miss the opportunity. She twists her body and kicks my flank as hard as she could. Then, she distances herself from me by back-stepping.

"Wow, lucky me."

"Y-you...!"

You have to be kidding me? Despite being specialized in stealth, my "Endurance" stat is in the three digits you know? Also, even though she took me by surprise, I wasn't able to react to her speed at all? Okay, let's put those aside for now. I look towards the twins. Why did they attack me?

"Eh? Hey, nee-chan. Didn't Toka nee-chan say that the enemy is a girl?"

"What are you saying, little brother? He's pointing his blade at a fragile girl! Plus, he's wearing something suspicious. He has to be the bad guy!"

"I see! You're right! As expected of you, nee-chan!"

The twins seem to think of me as the perpetrator. For the first time since I was born, I feel like beating up kids for real. Damn it, you did you guys meddle with the situation!?

"Ahyahyahyaha... I legit thought it was game over, but Lady Luck hasn't abandoned me yet."

The moment she says that, I hear a series of gunshot from the distance. They're from Ichinose-san. She seems to have shot the moment the monster tamer moved away from me. The bullets are aimed at the monster tamer's temple and thighs. They will lead to either instant death or paralysis. I'm impressed at her ruthlessness. However-

"That ain't gonna work~"

The bullets are stopped a few centimeters before their targets. The "darkness" has protected her yet again.

"It's show time! Dog!"

A large beast spawns from her feet. The third encounter.

"Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!"

Along with a howl, the dark wolf appears.

"What is that dog..."

"It looks extremely overpowered..."

The twins' eyes are glued to the dark wolf which has come out of nowhere. The same goes for the other students. Some people are trembling and holding onto each other. The dark wolf's strength is that amazing. Even so... it's just that. The wolf's current condition is far from ideal. With the two battles from before, it should be considerably exhausted. The wounds that the student council members and I inflicted have not healed yet. Right now, I'm confident that I can beat it.

"You think you can beat it right now, right?"

The monster tamer smiles creepily as if she has read my mind.

"Sweet. I'll show you. This is my trump card."

She lays a hand on the dark wolf.

"Familiar Strengthening"

The next moment, the dark wolf's body begins to pulse. A black steam rises from its body, and the wounds heal. The wolf's body enlarges, and the darkness surrounding it becomes darker. Clearly, it has become more powerful.



A skill... that strengthens familiars? I watch what is happening in a daze. It's not just me. Everyone else is also doing the same. The dark wolf's presence has become that much overwhelming.

"Now, let us continue."

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Chapter 82

Source: Cipher

Report

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"Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

The dark wolf charges in while howling. With its enlarged body, the dark wolf looks more like a huge hog rather than a wolf. It runs with a speed similar to a bullet. Yet its movements are straightforward and easily predictable- I can avoid it. Dodging the dark wolf, I jump to the sides. I ready myself so that I can adjust my position if the dark wolf follows up and redirects its charge. However, the dark wolf simply pounces pass me.

"Agyaaaaaaa-!"

A scream of agony. When I turn my gaze, I witness one of the students that were on its track getting crushed. The wolf's momentum must have been horrifying as the student that has been sacrificed becomes a bloody mass of meat.

"U-u-uAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!"

"Do-don't come here!"

Just as the dark wolf is about to strike at another student besides it, the monster tamer shouts.

"What are you doing? Your enemy is the man in the hood! Ignore the rest!"

"U-u-uuuuu..."

Hearing her command, the dark wolf turns towards me and stares at me with turbid eyes. Somehow... its eyes seem to be trying to appeal for something.

"You ain't walking away today. You're simply too dangerous."

Saying that, a few goblins and orcs emerge from her feet.

"These guys can hold back the rest of the small fries, but I'm not confident about getting rid of you if I do not use this wolf."

The monsters recommence their offense. Monsters also approach the area where Nishino and the twins are.

"They're coming, nee-chan!"

"Muu, they're a hindrance!"

Let's have them take care of things on their end. Rather, that would ensure that no one butts in. Now, how should I proceed... I contemplate while staring at the dark wolf in front of me. I was quite confident before, but after it got strengthened, I'm not sure anymore. Its injuries are healed, and its defense which has been its only weakness also disappeared after

enlarging itself... Should I flee? With our ambush having failed and our existence exposed, there really isn't any merit in staying. Even if I choose to fight it, it would be better if we first retreat and prepare ourselves. If I manage to run away, all is well. Otherwise, I can gradually exhaust its health with a hit-and-run strategy. Yup, I think that is for the best. With that said, the question is how to get out of this situation. The dark wolf's sense of smell is especially troublesome. Then I guess I will go with that method.

"Momo!"

"Uon?"

"Ah?... A dog?"

I swiftly retrieve Momo who hiding into my shadow and activate my new "Ninjutsu".

"The Art of Smoke Shielding" (TN: 煙霧の術 Better name?)

The next moment, black smoke erupts around me. The smoke that would disrupt anybody's field of vision covers the cafeteria in an instant.

"What's this?"

"I can't see anything!?"

This is my second Ninjutsu. It is The Art of Smoke Shielding. The important thing is that it interrupts everyone's vision. With this, I have sealed its eyes.

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(Ichinose-san)

Under the cover of the smoke, I retrieve Ichinose-san. Even if I can't see anything, I still have "Detect Enemy". As I approach Ichinose-san, I activate Duplication and create four duplicates. I make the duplicates rub themselves at Ichinose-san.

(Fueee~?! Wait, Kudou-san, what are you doing in this situation?)

(Just be quiet for now.)

After rubbing thoroughly, I order the duplicates to flee in different directions. If I can't trick its sense of smell, I can make do with numbers.

With Ichinose-san's odor, the four of them shouldn't be differentiable.

Although the chance is still one out of five, it's better than nothing.

(Ku-Kudou-san! This is?)

(I'll explain later. We should first get out of here.)

After whispering an answer, we smash a window and escape. The duplicates also flee through different exits.

At that moment -

"Darkness" spews out from the ceiling of the cafeteria and spreads like the webs of a spider. Once again, it encompasses the entire school.

"Wha...!?"

This is bad! I immediately start dashing... but fail to make it in time. A few seconds before we make it out, we get trapped within the barrier.

"Damn it!"

"That was a close one."

I hear a voice from behind. When I look back, I see the monster tamer and the dark wolf standing there.

"Blinding us. What a futile resistance. Also, I have no idea how you did it, but you also managed to split your smell... what an interesting skill you have there..."

This girl... she saw through our plan in an instant. While being secretly surprised, I release the duplicates that are some distance away. Since the escape has failed, there isn't a need to waste any more MP.

"Hee~ so you are indeed with Ichinose-san."

The monster tamer's stare alternates between Ichinose-san and me.

"Long time no see. Didn't think we'd unite like this."

"Tsu..."

Ichinose-san doesn't reply. However, her shoulders are slightly shaking.

"It was unexpected. I didn't think you and Aisaka would have established contact. Thanks to you, all my plans have gone out of the window."

So it was that mail... I guess the mail triggered all this.

"If we didn't do something, you would've killed them right?"

I reply in Ichinose-san's stead.

"Well yeah. I was thinking of killing both Aisaka and Nishino using this guy."

"Uuuuu~gururururu..."

The dark wolf is whimpering as if it is in pain, but the monster tamer continues without minding.

"But then~ there's something I don't understand. Innit better for ya, Ichinose, if they died?"

"What are you...?"

"Oya? So the one wearing the hoodie doesn't know about it? This girl was bullied by Aisaka in the past."

"...!"

Ichinose-san reacts strongly to the monster tamer's words. Bullied? What does she mean? Isn't she her friend?

"While I wasn't in the same class as Aisaka, Ichinose was. I heard that people bullied her under Aisaka's orders, making sure that they do not get caught by the teachers or that Student Council President. The rest of her classmates pretended like they didn't know what was going on. I bet there wasn't anyone willing to side with her."

"..."

"One day, I was in the bathroom. There, I saw her soaked in sewage water and crying. There were also traces of a beating."

The monster tamer laughs as if there's something funny.

"In the end, she refused to attend school and dropped out. It was a while after that. The school finally noticed and suspended everybody that participated in the bullying. Of course, Aisaka included."

The monster tamer claps her hand because of the "happy ending". What is going on... If she isn't lying, then why would Ichinose-san... Her actions up till now... Having learned about the truth, I'm stunned by how contradictory they were.

"So anyways, she has no reason to help Aisaka. More like she should hate her to the bones. Wait. Were you actually trying to snipe her instead of me? Then--"

"... up."

"...Huh?"

"Shut up. You don't know anything."

Ichinose-san glares at the monster tamer while crying tears.

"You don't know anything. You have no right to talk about Ricchan."

AAAAHHHHHHH!"

A bullet gets shot along with her scream but gets stopped midway by the "darkness".

"Hmm, whatever. Doesn't matter. You're going to die regardless."

Having said that, she takes a step back and allows the dark wolf to move forward. So a battle cannot be avoided. For Ichinose-san who is panting in anger, I soothe her by patting her back.

"Please calm down Ichinose-san."

"So-sorry."

"I will charge forward. Please cover me from the back."

"Yes."

There are many things I want to ask, but I will save that for later. Right now, I need to deal with the situation in front of me. The shadow near my feet shakes. No, Momo. You can't come out yet. Since I don't know what conditions the monster tamer must pass to manipulate monsters, I can't reveal Aka or Momo yet. That's also why I kept Momo at the rear in the cafeteria.

"Momo, please assist me from the shadows."

I sense a nod from within the shadow. I kick the ground beneath me.

"Goaaaahhhh!"

Just like before, the darkness surrounding the dark wolf rushes forward like a stream. As if I'll get done in by the same trick. As I jump, I'm taking out vending machines and scrapped cars so that I can use them as scaffoldings. Kicking them allows me to maneuver in the air.

"I'm not going to hold back."

I trigger the Duplication skill. Creating four duplicates, I confuse the dark wolf's perception.

"What? Copies?"

The monster tamer raises her voice in surprise.

"Gua..."

The dark wolf tries to follow every copy's movements, but it doesn't seem successful. A knife which one of the duplicates throws gets imbedded on the dark wolf's hide. Unfortunately, the injury is shallow and it has only scratched the surface of the skin.

"Like I predicted, its defense has gone up..."

Attacking from a distance isn't working well. Then... I should use that. I dismiss all my duplicates and take "that" out of my Item Box. Thereafter, I

summon my duplicates again and order them to hold "that". Unlike me, the duplicates cannot use the Item Box skill. Once again, the duplicates surround the dark wolf to confuse it.

-Right now.

Finding an opening, one of my copies throw "that" at the dark wolf. It hits the wolf's face and the liquid inside the container splatters on its face.

"Ga!? Gaaaaaaaaa!?"

The dark wolf screams and proceeds to roll on the ground.

"What? What? What did you do?"

The monster tamer is also stunned by the sight. Apparently, the Tabasco Ball seems to have worked. It is a perfect weapon against an enemy with an excellent sense of smell.

"Now! All the duplicates! Onwards!"

The copies rapidly close in and slash at the dark wolf. Since I can't inflict damage from a distance, I can only do so by using the Strike and Swordsmanship skills at close quarters. My plan works and the knives firmly land on the dark wolf.

"Guoooooooooooooooooooo!"

Along with a scream, the "darkness" around the dark wolf entangles the duplicates. As such, I cancel the duplication skill.

"Guooo..."

The dark wolf stands up slowly while enduring the pain.

"I see..."

From this fight, I know clearly now that the dark wolf does not possess the keen battle sense that it used to have. Whether it's because of the monster tamer or because of the forced strengthening, the dark wolf is incapable of making full use of its enhanced stats. As such, it feels like the wolf has become weaker compared to when we first met.

"What, that's impossible... What is happening?"

The monster tamer cries. I guess the monster tamer didn't expect this outcome. We are faring much better than she expected. And she hasn't realized yet. That the dark wolf is unable to display its full potential after the enhancement.

"How unfortunate."

To finish off the dark wolf, I once again cast the duplication skill. Taking into account my MP, this would be the last time. I must end it with this.

"Guoooooooooooooooooooo!"

As its last form of resistance, the dark wolf shoots the "darkness" from its feet. But that's it. For a moment, I thought the dark wolf would activate the cyclone attack that it used back when we first encountered each other, but it ended prematurely (TN: the skill where everything the dark wolf sucked up gets released to the surrounding at a very high velocity). The "darkness" encircled the dark wolf momentarily before dispersing. The dark wolf lies there. That previous attack must have used up all of its strength. The wolf's enlarged body shrinks back to its original size.

“Guooooon...”

It tries desperately to protect its head and body with the “darkness”, but there are many openings. The knives of the duplicates descend upon the wolf. With that, the “darkness” disappears as it melts into the ground. The barrier around the school dissipates as well. Finally, a purple magic stone rolls out.

You have gained experience

Experience has reached a certain threshold

Kudou Kazuto’s level has increased from 17 to 18

I hear the voice of heaven in my head. Now, we only have to deal with the monster tamer... In a sense, this is the real problem.

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Chapter 83

Source: Cipher

Report

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As its consciousness began fading away, it prayed.

-I don’t want to disappear-

The world had suddenly changed.

It had been separated from its mate. (TN: Still not sure whether Momo is related to this.)

-Want to... return-

But its wish was never granted.

Its freedom was robbed after being captured by a strange power.

Above all, its body was heading towards death.

-I don’t want to die-

It wished dearly.

But the wish was not answered.

The only salvation was the sensation that came from the strange chain (which the human casted) unraveling itself.

Probably, the chains would lose their effect when it perished.

But what good would that do?

It was already too late to do anything.

-I don’t want to die-

It prayed once again.

It still had things left to do.

Something that must be done.

Someone it had to meet.

It was unacceptable for it to die.

-Zaza-Accepte-d-Zazaza

-What?

A noise rang inside its head.

-ConfirmationZa-AcquZa-quired-

There it was again. The volume gradually increased as if it was trying to maintain a grasp on its consciousness.

-Zaza-is-

-Target-Zazaza-Life-Name-Zazazazazaza

-Will be -done--

Skill-[ ]-Zazazaza

-What was it trying to say?

Interestingly, it didn't feel any discomfort.

And the words the followed were heard clearly.

--Commencing Evolution--

It lost its consciousness.

"Let's see now..."

Readying my weapon, I step forward. The monster tamer is obviously flustered.

"What... impossible... it can't be..."

Shaking her head and moving backward, the monster tamer looks menacingly towards me.

"That... that dark wolf was my greatest fighting power!! Its level was above 20!! That's twice as high as mine! It had powerful skills as well! For this to happen after strengthening it... it's unreasonable! Illogical!"

She argues while spitting out saliva. She looks like a child throwing a tantrum. Anyways.... That dark wolf was over level 20? No wonder it was so strong. But there wasn't any announcement like the one from back when I defeated the high orc. Was the dark wolf not named? My level only increased by 1 too. I thought it was different from the other monsters, but was I mistaken? No, this is best. I wouldn't want situations like the one with the high orc happening so often. And it was just yesterday that it happened. Oh right, I should retrieve the magic stone. The stone is already within the retrievable perimeter of the Item Box. When I try to take it in- it fails....Huh? I try it again only to fail again. What does this mean? Despite the wolf's death, does the magic stone still "belong" to the monster tamer? Well, that's fine. Leave that for now.

"Kuuuuu! Not yet! It's not over yet!"

Below her feet, several monsters appear from the dark. An orc and three goblins.... So there are still some left.

"Monsters! Earn me some... time...eh?"

She stops on her track. It is a matter of course. After all, I have already crushed them using some heavy machinery.

You have gained experience.

I hear the voice of heaven. Sorry, but you can't delay me with this kind of monsters. I get near the monster tamer after quickly removing the heavy machinery.

"Sh-shit!"

The monster tamer attempts to flee with her back against us. However, before she succeeds, a small gunshot is heard. It's from Ichinose-san. The bullet accurately imbeds itself in the monster tamer's thigh.

"Gu..."

She falls on the spot and screams in pain. Now that the dark wolf has died, the auto-defense of the "darkness" seems to have disappeared along with it. This is just a speculation, but I believe that she can take some of the status and skills of her familiars. That can explain the strength that she displayed in the cafeteria and why the dark wolf didn't utilize the automatic defense function during our fight. On the flip side, now that her monsters are dying left and right, her status should be decreasing as we speak.

"Damn it! DAMN IT!"

She is still trying desperately to run away. I speedily arrive in front of her.

"This time, it is truly the end."

"Hi,hiiii! W-wait! Time out! Please! Don't kill me!"

She begs while looking up at me. Her expression is different from the one that she had in the cafeteria. She really has no way out this time.

"I apologize for what happened just now! I won't do this kind of thing ever again! So please! Let me leave!"

"..."

"I can be your companion, no, your slave! Please use me as you please! I'm sure I can be of some use! This body will be yours! I don't mind using it however you like! Right! You can embrace me as many times as you want!" She is desperate. She doesn't want to die. She is uttering with only that in mind. Unfortunately, her voice doesn't reach my heart. How would I trust someone that tried to kill me? Considering Momo and Aka's existence, the monster tamer is too dangerous. My heart is already set in stone. It's just me who is hesitating. I'm just not determined enough.

"Have you finished saying your last words?"

My cold voice surprises even myself.

"!! N-no! I don't want it! I don't want to die! I DON'T WANT TO DIE!"

While shaking her head from side to side, she starts to sob.

"Finally...I finally... have the chance to live as I want. There are so many things left that I want to do. I don't want it to end here... I don't want to die... no...NOOOO."

The knife on my hand shakes. Sweat drenches my back, and an unpleasant sound is heard from within.

-Isn't it fine? Just spare her.

-She's a girl! She's crying!

-Isn't it fine to just hand her over to the students after tying her up?

-Why is there a need for you to dirty your own hand?

-You can even have Ichinose-san do the deed.

-You can't do it.

-You can't do it. You can't. You can't. You can't.



Stop. I have to stop having these thoughts. I shake my head as if I'm trying to clear my thoughts. This will be- my first stepping stone. It's a wall that I have to overcome. To survive in this world, this is the stepping stone for my determination. Personally, I don't want to commit murder. But the difference in being able to do the "deed" or not could vastly influence my scope of actions. Just like this time. Faltering and hesitating could put my companions in danger. So... I must make up my mind as well.

Experience has reached a certain threshold

Stress Tolerance has leveled up from LV6 to LV7

Experience has reached a certain threshold

Stress Tolerance has leveled up from LV7 to LV8

Experience has reached a certain threshold

Stress Tolerance has leveled up from LV8 to LV9

The voice of heaven responds to my resolution. For a moment, it feels like my mind has become lighter.

"Fuuuuu..."

After a deep breath, I look at the monster tamer once again. Her face is dyed with despair. I would most likely remember that expression forever. I will never forget it.

"Farewell."

And-I swing down the blade... Or so I thought.

"...Eh?"

The blade is stopped midair by a small shield of "darkness".

"Wa...?"

It is apparent that this situation is not planned by the monster tamer. She appears shocked. What's going on? The dark wolf should be dead already...

"Tsu... perhaps..."

I turn back and glance at the location where the dark wolf's magic stone should be.

It's gone.

The dark wolf's magic stone isn't there. In the midst of confusion, another event occurs. The darkness which has spawned in front of the monster tamer's eyes expands to the size of a fist. From there, darkness swells up and erupts. It falls to the ground like a waterfall and instantly spreads out. I fly away by reflex, but the monster tamer who has lost her mobility gets caught up in the darkness.

"Wh-what's this? Uwaaaaaaaaa!"

She gradually gets swallowed up while screaming. Starting from her legs, moving on to her wrists, and gradually to her torso. It is as if the darkness has its own consciousness, chewing on her with its will.

"Hiiiiii! H-HELP ME!!!"

She is engulfed completely, and her scream is no longer intelligible.

"Tsu...!"

I feel something terrible. I can't stop perspiring. What is this... massive pressure?

## Report

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In the cafeteria, Nishino and Rikka were having a deadly battle with the monsters.

“Haaaa...Haaaa.”

They were facing a shadow wolf and three lesser wolves. They were at a disadvantage both in terms of number and strength. Currently, there were out of breath and had injuries all over their bodies. With their levels and skill proficiencies, it was a miracle that they could still fight. What was supporting them could be summed up as Rikka’s frightening motivation. (...Was here... I can’t be mistaken...)

Just a few minutes ago, when Katsuragi Sayaka released the goblin horde, they suddenly had their brains blown away. At that time, Rikka had seen it. (That was – Natssun...)

A person who wielded an oversized rifle which didn’t fit her stature. It was only for an instant, but she was sure that it wasn’t an illusion. That had to be Ichinose Natsu. When she looked back at the location after a brief moment of disbelief, she was no longer there. She must have used some type of skill.

(I must meet her.)

The feeling that she had near the school gate was not a mistake. The sudden mail and the sniper that saved her life were all Ichinose. She had a message that she had to convey. There were many things that she had to say.

“Grrrrrrrr!”

The moment she loosened her guard, the lesser wolf approached her.

“DON’T DISTRACT ME!!!!!!”

She didn’t put the lesser wolf into her eyes. Directly grabbing its face, she threw it down at the ground. Along with a newly created crack on the floor, a magic stone rolled out.

You have acquired experience

Experience has reached a certain level

Aisaka Rikka’s level has increased from 9 to 10

She heard a voice announcing that her level has gone up. Even so, she didn’t have the time to care about such matters.

“Haaaaaa...Haaaaa....! Gehooo...!”

If she could, she wanted to leave the cafeteria in search for Ichinose. Yet the obstructions from the monsters stopped her from doing so.

(Who was that person in the hood? Natssun’s boyfriend? Nah, that can’t be.)

When she arrived at this thought, she felt somewhat uncomfortable. In the first place, who was that man? The man who brought along Ichinose and disturbed the cafeteria.

(He was strong...too strong in fact...but I feel like I’ve met him somewhere...)

Regardless, it was clear that he was Ichinose's companion. The gas from just then was a cover for their escape. Then, it was likely that they had fled already.

"Anyways... I have to get rid of these guys quickly and give chase...

Haaaaah...Haaaaah..."

“Rikka! You’re pushing yourself too much! You should--”

“SHUT UP!”

Nishino tried to warn her, but it didn't matter. As her mind was getting clearer, she activated "berserk" again. Her instincts took over, energizing every inch of her body.

Rikka advanced upon the shadow wolf with a cry. Rikka's skill, "Berserk". In exchange for her reason, status points worth ten times the level of the skill were granted to her. Depending on the level and the proficiency of the skill, the amount of reason that she lost differed. "Ferocity" increased her close combat abilities and "Strengthened Slash" increased the damage output of her slashes. In addition, "Continuous Battle" and "Regeneration" allowed her to forcefully move her body. Her occupation Berserker was truly made for the purpose of combat.

"Gu...grrrrr."

Her approaching figure was enough to stun the shadow wolf, creating an opening for herself.

(-I did it!)

It was when she was absolutely convinced that she could take the kill from the shadow wolf.

"WAAOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO  
OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!"

The roar reverberated throughout the cafeteria.

When that monster- let's call it the dark wolf for now- roared, I remembered the time I first encountered the high orc. That time when I despaired facing absolute disparity in strength. It might be even worse this time around. "Detect Danger" is ringing like never before. I feel coldness akin to what one would feel if he is put into a frozen pool of water without any clothing. While sweating bullets, I maintain a close eye on the beast.

“Haaa...haaa...”

It's suffocating. I should be running full speed with Ichinose-san in tow.

With agility having exceeded 300 after leveling up, I'm sure I'm moving at an astonishing rate with the added speed from the skill "Getaway". Even so- I have absolutely no confidence of shaking off the monster. Wait, am I even running in the first place? Or am I actually standing while shaking in fear? I can't help but think that way. I can't help but believe that that is the case.

The monster was just that much different.

Proficiency has reached a certain threshold

Fear Resistance has increased from LV 7 to LV 8 (TN: Pretty sure it was 8 since chapter 57, but oh well.)

Proficiency has reached a certain threshold  
Fear Resistance has increased from LV 8 to LV 9  
You have acquired experience  
Requesting for skills

ThisIsBadThisIsBadThisIsBadThisIsBad. This is impossible. That thing is undefeatable.

“---Uon.”

I hear a small voice. The sound is so faint that I would have missed it if not for “Listening Ears”. I hear something else as well.

“Kudou-san!”

Ichinose-san shouts. “Hands” are growing out from the walls next to me. Huge, distorted hands which belonged to neither men nor beasts. The size of their palms should reach several meters.

“!?”

I reflectively jump to the side. That very moment, the black hands slam into the ground where I previously stood. The ground shakes and a storm is manifested. Just how much power went into that attack? A small crater has been created on the ground. We are blown away, rolling on the ground. Thanks to Aka absorbing most of the impact, I am able to stand up quickly.

“I-Ichinose-san, how are you?”

“I-I’m holding on...”

Unfortunately, the enemy has no intention to wait. From various places such as the walls and the grounds - more accurately, from anywhere with shadows - countless hands appear.

“--Uuooooon.”

The dark wolf howls softly. The next moment, the hands begin to stretch at an incredible speed.

“UOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOON!!”

Utilizing “Danger Detection”, “Enemy Detection”, and “Prediction”, I make a mad dash. The tentacle-like hands rip through the air, causing tremors to the grounds and destroying the school building. It was trying to target us, but a part of the school has been destroyed as a consequence. There are screams in the distance, but I can’t be bothered to care. Taking out vending machines and scrapped cars from the Item Box, I make instant scaffoldings. Just running won’t do the trick. I should maneuver around to dodge the incoming attacks.

“-! There!”

Ichinose-san fires at a hand near us. The part that the bullet strikes scatters away. So physical attacks work! Or rather, this girl can shoot so well on someone else’s shoulder! However, the black hand which Ichinose-san destroyed quickly regenerates.

“If so!”

Without much MP left, my options are limited. I release the Item Box.

“I shall pave a path!”

“...?”

Danger! Alarms are ringing at their maximum rate.

[illegible]

“Furu...Furu”

"How... about... Ichinose-san?"

"Wan!"

“...It’s fine. I haven’t give up yet, Momo.”

It's okay. I won't give up before trying things out. To be truthful, I'm terrified. My legs are still paralyzed and I might even die from this. But since you haven't given up, I can't be the first to surrender. Just like my battle yesterday with the high orc, Momo keeps helping me during my

darkest hours. While petting Momo's head, I stand. I will continue to struggle.

"Huh?"

I notice how the dark wolf is not paying attention to me. What is this? What is it looking at? For some reason, its line of sight is directed towards Momo who is right next to me. I feel something very unpleasant.

"Momo!"

"Wan!"

Instinctively, I push Momo away. For some reason, my body is telling me that it has to be done. Momo must have felt something too as she tries to jump away from the spot. But she doesn't make it in time. The black hands condense right next to Momo, transforming into a net and entangling Momo within. And then--

"MOMOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!"

With a gulp, Momo is swallowed.

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Chapter 85

Source: Cipher

Report

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"...Momo?"

In a daze, I stare at where Momo was standing just a moment ago. There, I see a puddle of darkness with ripples on its surface.

"Eh...ah, eh...?"

What happened?

I don't know.

I fail to comprehend.

My brain refuses to accept it - Momo has been consumed by the darkness.

"....Ah."

It takes me a few seconds to understand something so simple.

"Momo..."

My heart gets dyed in black. I collapse powerlessly on the spot.

"UOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOON!!"

The dark wolf raises a howl. For some reason, I can feel a thread of joy in its voice.

"...."

Standing up like a ghost, I glare at the dark wolf. I don't know when this has occurred, but my body is no longer trembling. Nevertheless, my heart is trembling as if it is about to be ripped apart. The desire to flee leaves my completely.

Certain conditions have been met

You have acquired the skill Fury

Proficiency has reached a certain threshold

Fury has increased from LV 1 to LV 2  
Proficiency has reached a certain threshold  
Fury has increased from LV 2 to LV 3  
Proficiency has reached a certain threshold  
Fury has increased from LV 3 to LV 4  
Proficiency has reached a certain threshold  
Fury has increased from LV 4 to LV 5

“RETURN... MOMO... TO

MEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!”

When I scream so, something snaps within me. Emotions explode and my mind goes blank. The concept of fear fades away, replaced by a surge of strength from within my body. Grasping onto my weapon, I charge at the dark wolf. I move at an unbelievable pace. Yet the dark wolf stands erect in its place, merely shifting one of its front legs. It’s as if it’s trying to convey the message that it is pointless. In since with its movement, the darkness expands. A huge jaw has been formed. While dripping darkness here and there, the jaw heads towards me. But so what?

“Nuisance.”

I jump, simultaneously taking out a scrapped car on top of the jaw. I also take out a scrapped car in the air. Stepping on it powerfully, I accelerate. The car, influenced by my kick, slams into the dark jaw.

“!?”

“Get crushed.”

After crushing the jaw and using the car as a kicking board, I position myself directly below the dark wolf. The creature still refuses to budge from its spot. It only breathes in and out.

“As if I’ll get tricked twice!”

I had been negligent before, but it’s different now. Although my mind is burning and boiling, my thoughts are calm, carefully observing the situation and predicting the dark wolf’s movements. I throw the ordinary knife which I take out. If the wolf’s cry is the same as Momo’s and the high orc’s, it should have the same limitations. There is a trick to conquer this skill. If the user takes another action while the skill is active, “Cry” gets cancelled. The dark wolf uses the darkness to thwart the knife away. As I have predicted, the effects of “Cry” are cancelled.

“UOOOOOOOOON!”

I grab onto the orc’s knife (superior) and close in on the dark wolf. Without any tactics or craps like that, I slash incessantly while relying purely on my skills and status. However, the attacks do not reach the dark wolf. The darkness’s automatic defense mechanism nullifies the attacks. But so what! I continue my assault.

Proficiency has reached a certain threshold  
Swordsmanship has increased from LV 4 to LV 5  
Proficiency has reached a certain threshold  
Critical Strike has increased from LV 3 to LV 4



The levels of skills increase. I'm grateful for that. The sharpness of my attacks rises. Cutting through the darkness, my attacks reach the dark wolf.  
"UOOOOOOOOOOOOON!"

Along with its howl, thorns of darkness thrust up from below my feet. They penetrate the flesh of feet and rip through my arms, spilling blood. But so what? Manipulating the shadows, I pull out the thorns. My body is numb from pain. Without minding my injuries, I continue to attack.

"Return her!"

Danger Detection and Enemy Detection show a response. From all around me, spikes, jaws, and hands of darkness fly towards me.

"Momo..."

Creating temporary walls and footholds around me, I relentlessly strike at the wolf. I know already that I won't be able to withstand the attacks for more than a second. But so what? If I kill this creature before that, everything will be resolved.

"RETURN HERRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR!"

I wonder what kind of expression I have. My eyes meet with the dark wolf's eyes.

"...!"

At that moment, the dark wolf, which has not moved since the beginning, decides to act. It jumps backward, distancing itself from me.

"Don't... run... off..."

Return Momo to me. I glare at the monster with blood dripping down from my body.

"....."

It does not shy away from my glare. However, for the first time, its eyes contain something other than hostility. It contains... yes, interest. Ripples appear beneath it, and Momo, who had been captured by the darkness, emerges.

"Momo!"

Momo doesn't move. However, she is not dead. It appears like she has lost consciousness.

"What are you trying to do?"

Hostage... no, a Dogstage?

"Uon."

The dark wolf barks softly. It's trying to ask something.

"What do you want to say?"

The dark wolf raises Momo high up in the air and barks once again.

"Uoon!"

It must be because of the times I've spent communicating with Momo and Aka. I can somewhat understand what it is trying to convey. The Dark wolf probably asked:

-What is she to you?

"My buddy."

I reply without pause. That expression sounds just right. If someone asks about Ichinose-san or Aka, the answer would be "companion". But if it's Momo, then the answer is definitely "Buddy". Before the world turned into this mess, to me who had neither family nor friend, Momo was the one and only precious...

"An important... buddy and a partner of mine."  
"..."

As if it has understood my words, the dark wolf's eyes become round. After looking at me for a while, the dark wolf slowly puts Momo on top of the darkness. The darkness doesn't swallow her like before. The dark wolf merely lays her on there and stands still. For some reason, the dark wolf doesn't seem to desire Momo's death. Rather, it looks like a guardian looking over its treasure. The dark wolf turns to look at me as if to provoke me.

"Gau..."

I feel like it is trying to say, "If she's so important, try to get her back."

"O-of course I will."

To be honest, I have very little chance of winning. I know this clearly from experience. This dark wolf possesses power which far surpasses its original. Even so- what about it? For me, the option of abandoning Momo does not exist. I still think my life is the most important. Despite this being true, there are still some things which I cannot give up on. If I run away from here, I will definitely regret it.

"UOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOON!"

The dark wolf howls and dashes at me.

How quick! The distance is reduced at the blink of an eye. The darkness around it shifts into two giant claws.

"Gau!"

The claws head towards me with a roar. I place my knife in front of me to block them.

"ARHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!"

-Heavy. I can sense the tremendous impact. I can't block it!

"Furu Furu!"

At this instant, Aka, who has become weak after turning smaller, encases me with its body. By spreading the impact, it reduces the momentum. Using this chance, I make my escape. Nevertheless, there are two claws in total. From the side, the remaining claw approaches. A series of gunshots reverberate throughout the air, and the tip of the claws are scattered, altering the course of the claw. I understand what is going on without even looking. It's support from Ichinose-san. Although I receive some scratches on my arm, I successfully evade the second claw.

(You can rely on me for support.)

(Thank you, Ichinose-san!)

I do not look at her. There is no such leeway. Even without looking, even without speaking, our thoughts are conveyed. Concentrate. Do not miss a single movement. If I don't, only death awaits.

“АHHHHHHHHHHH!”

Facing another attack from the claws, I forcefully deflect it by using the edge of my knife. The impact shakes the ground and crumbles the school building as well.

"Grrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr..."

While growling, the dark wolf sends off a flurry of claws. For the dark wolf, this attack is nothing deadly. It is but a normal skill that can be used indefinitely. I am forced to recognize the discrepancy in strength even if I don't want to know it.

“Furu Furu...”

Aka shakes, as if in pain. Even Aka's shock absorbance isn't perfect. There must be a limit to it. If this continues, Aka will also...

“Kuuuu...”

I grind my teeth. I can't afford to waste time anymore. If things don't change... I'll be done in. Yet the dark wolf doesn't slack off on its attacks. On the contrary, it produces two more giant claws. It has doubled. The destructive power has doubled.

“Damn...it...”

Four claws approach. Can I not reach it? With my, with our strength, can we not beat this monster? Can I not rescue Momo? Escape. Escape. Escape. For a moment, such thoughts pass my mind. But... even so...

"AS IF I'LL JUST GIVE UP HERE!"

Don't f\*ck with me! As if I'll run away! Think! A way to survive! Look forward! Think of a way to advance! Don't be afraid! Don't submit! Keep searching for possibilities! For once, just for once, I desire strength. The strength to take back my buddy. The strength to overcome this predicament. Suddenly, a sound resonates within my head.

Request for skills has been granted

Confirmed the death of the previous owner

## Altering the unique skill “” to a usable state

The unique skill “Profession Enhancement” is not available

I can hear the sound of heaven. At the same time, strength surges throughout my body. What... is this? My five senses are enhanced, and I can predict the trajectory of the attacks. I can dodge them. With my agility raised, I dodge like the wind.

"Gau?!"

It must have never predicted this. For the first time, I see hesitation on the dark wolf's face. But it's no different for me. What does this mean? Just now...? Where did this sudden surge of strength come from? I open my status window. Scrolling down to the column with unique skills, I am surprised.

## Unique Skills

Precocious

Profession Enhancement

ly, there had been words on the screen which were incomprehensible. Now, they are replaced with a new skill.

“Why...?”

Until now, the mysterious unique skill “■■■■” had never made sense to me. Why is it that I can use it now? No, thinking back, I remember the voice of heaven claiming that the previous owner has died. And before that, the voice has said something about requesting for a skill. I was too busy to care at the time, but is this what it meant? Were the words blurred out because somebody else possessed the skill? So that means that a single unique skill can’t be used by multiple people. If two people meet the prerequisite for the same skill, the person who met it first would obtain the skill while the other person would preserve the possibility in the form of a skill called ■■■■.

And when the pervious holder of the skill perishes, the next person in line obtains it. If this is true, then everything makes sense. But why now...? Who was the previous ow...

– I can strengthen those skills you know?

Suddenly, I recall what the monster tamer had said. Perhaps... she was the previous owner? “Profession Enhancement”. Most likely, this skill can amplify the effects from an occupation, just like its name implies. More specifically, it could strengthen the skills that accompany the occupation. Under such conditions, it isn’t weird for the monster tamer to subdue the numerous monsters. So she was like me, a person who had unique skills. This skill was most likely the source of her power. I see... I see now...

“Ha...Ha ha...”

I unintentionally let out a laugh. To think I’ll get my hands on this kind of skill at such a desperate situation. I also notice something else. I look at my HP and MP.

HP: 33/180

MP: 3/35

I have some MP left. Wondering why, I stare at my level before coming to an epiphany. It’s the amount of extra MP I acquired after leveling up. This can be used. “Ninjutsu” could be activated, albeit only once. Also, this could be “Enhanced”. My thought process accelerates once again. A means to survive and rescue Momo. Hot. My body feels like its burning.

“Haaaa... Haaaa...”

Injuries throughout. Having one chance at “Ninjutsu”. An enemy that surpasses the high orc. Ahh... what a shitty situation I’m in.

But- so what?

I have decided on a plan. I will succeed. A glimmer of hope. I can only try to pull in towards me.

“Wait for me, Momo.”

I’m definitely saving you.

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Chapter 86  
Source: Cipher  
Report

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TN: The Art of Smoke Shielding has become Smokescreen . Thanks for Mammon who has thought of this!

"Fuu..."

Steadying my breath and readying my stance, I glare at the dark wolf. My opponent moves first.

"UOOOOOOOOOOOOON!"

Along with its high-pitched cry, I see dozens of black hands formed from the darkness lunging out of its feet. They stretch out all at once, approaching me.

- I can see them.

I can clearly see the path that they are taking. It should be either "Detect Enemy", "Enhanced Senses", or "Observation". This must also be one of the benefits of "Profession Enhancement". The skills that come from my occupations are becoming more potent. If I'm not wrong, I should have a total of 17 occupation related skills.

"Ninjutsu", "Throwing", "Enhanced Senses", "Odorless", "Silent Operation", "Concealment", "Night Vision", "Critical Aim", "Attention Cutoff", "Appraisal Interruption", "Detect Enemy", "Telephoto", "Dexterity Reinforcement", "Reinforcement", "Observation", "Listening Ears", and "Shadow Manipulation".

I can feel that they have all been strengthened to unprecedented levels. My five senses are sharper than ever before, and none of my movements are creating any sounds of friction. However-

"Tsu!"

I feel a sharp pain. Just by dodging my enemy's attacks, my body is screaming in pain. It must have been because of my reckless charge a moment ago.

HP: 20/180

My HP has dropped once again. It hasn't been this low since my fight with the high orc. Wait, that happened just yesterday. Damn it. Why am I so near death yesterday and today? Although it isn't displayed in the status screen, isn't my luck very low?

I don't have the time to keep complaining. If my leg refuses to move, I can use something else to move it.

"Shadow Manipulation!"

By shifting my own shadow, I wrap it around my injured leg, moving it by force. It's like using my body as a puppet. This should be able to cover for my sluggish leg. Yet the pain remains, and the wound isn't properly patched. Rather, it would most likely become worse. Thanks to the

strengthening, however, my movements are superior even when compared to my movements before I got injured. This should do.

"Aka, I'll be using you a bit violently, but please forgive me."

"Furu Furu."

Roger! The mimicking Aka shakes as if to reply thus. With Aka on my right hand and the real orc's knife on my left, I rush forth.

"UOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!"

6 meters away from the dark wolf. Not yet. I have to be closer. The short distance of 6 meters feels very far away.

"UOOOOOOOON!"

The black hands transform into giant claws and jaws. I deflect off the claws and block the jaws with the things from the Item Box. But nullifying all of the attacks is not possible. I choose to block only the fatal ones. It isn't something difficult with "Detect Danger". It's just a bit painful and scary.

My HP falls. Perhaps, once. If it lands a solid attack on me even once, I'm likely to perish. I have to finish this battle before that and rescue Momo.

The distance is covered. The dark wolf stands motionless, staring at me like a king would a challenger. 'To dare to look down on me' – such thoughts pass through my mind, but the next moment, I let it pass. If my enemy is putting its guard down, there is no downside for me. I take "that" out from the Item Box. I have 3 MP left. I can only activate a single Ninjutsu once.

The plan that I will execute from now is, in many ways, a wager. Excluding this, I don't see any way to defeat this monster.

"Eat this!"

Unplugging the safety plug, I hold the hose in place and fire at the wolf.

"!"

The dark wolf's eye opens wide and instantly whites out. I have used a fire extinguisher. Even if I can't use Smokescreen, I can create a similar effect within a limited range. The white smoke hides both myself and the dark wolf. I know already that this kind of trick is worthless in front of the dark wolf which has a superior sense of smell. But that is exactly why I'm doing this. From this point onwards. I take "that" out from the Item Box and activate a Ninjutsu. Although my sight is compromised, I can sense the location of the wolf because of my skills. I draw myself near it instantly, releasing a slash which cuts through the white smoke.

"Gaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

Unfortunately, moments before the blade lands, darkness envelops the dark wolf. The darkness shifts into thin, sharp thorns, protecting the body of the wolf like a hedgehog. The moment they penetrate "that", the wolf's face distorts.

"!?"

Of course. After all, the thing that it had pierced through was a doll – a mannequin. Just now, I had manipulated the mannequin to attack with a weapon, using the technique of "Shadow Manipulation". I knew it would be baited, because the clothing and the weapon on the mannequin are full of

my odor. With its eyes incapable of observing, it would have to rely on its nose. It's precisely because of how sensitive it is to smell that this trick worked. Including both the lesser wolves and the shadow wolves, they all possess absolute trust in their sense of smell. There is no mistake in this as I had come to this conclusion after observing their behaviors. So I took advantage of this fact. Using that brief moment of opening, the blade that comes out from the ground pierces the dark wolf.

"Gaaaaaaaaa...?"

"Ground Arts "

This Ninjutsu allows the user to swim inside the ground. Because of its short distance and linear trajectory, the skill is difficult to use, but in this situation, it displayed its greatest might. A surprise attack from the foot where the dark wolf would be the least alert. To be honest, this wager was not to my favor. If its darkness operated beneath the ground, it would have been a checkmate for me. Also, I was not certain whether or not the darkness could suck me in. In fact, that question was the biggest source of uncertainty. I was ready to lose an arm in the worst case. This strategy was full of holes, being overly reliant on speculation and luck. Even so, "If I didn't do this, I wouldn't have been able to reach you."

"..."

This was the only thing I could do. Touching meant being swallowed. Bullets would've been useless. Its darkness enveloped a huge area, and its attacks could handle situations from close, medium, and long distance away. Truly, there should be a limit to being absurd. Even so, I have won this bet. The darkness is merely stuck to the ground, and its entrance is only one way. From the other side, while physical objects seem to be reflected, anything that is wrapped by a "shadow" could pass through. Although they have different nature, their affinity to each other must be high. (TN: Most likely the affinity between shadows and darkness)

"This is the end...!"

I put strength into the knife which has been imbedded onto the wolf's stomach. I can feel that this attack has worked. This should end it. Rather, if this doesn't end it, I would meet my end.

"Guru...aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!"

The dark wolf also entangles its darkness around me in a desperate struggle. The power behind the darkness is so great that my body screams in agony. Furthermore, I can feel my body sinking into the darkness.

"Gu..."

There is so much pain running through my body that I can't move properly. My eyes start to fail me, and I can sense my consciousness fading away. No, I can't fail at this point. For what did I fight for?

"Mo...mo..."

Right. I have to save Momo. Aka, who is disguised as a knife, shakes violently. It is as if it is trying to cheer me on. If I die here, Aka and

Ichinose-san will have the same fate as me. Momo will be taken away. I'm here, carrying the burden of everyone's lives.

"00000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000!!"

Roaring, I slash down my knife with every bit of power remaining in my body. There is shock within the dark wolf's eyes. 'Where does this strength originate from?' I believe it is trying to convey such thoughts. The darkness tries to latch onto me with even greater vigor, but before that, a fraction of a millisecond before that.

"THIS IS THE ENDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDD!!!!!!!!!!"

A single blow, containing every inch of my power, cuts through the dark wolf. At that moment, the dark wolf loses its shape and sinks into the darkness, releasing me from the darkness.

“Ha.... Ha....”

With a clank, the knife falls out of my grip. Aka cancels its mimicry and sways near my feet in worry.

“Furu Furu”

“Ha... I’m okay, Aka.”

With a strained smile on my face, I check my status.

HP: 3/180

Shit. I'm really close to death. I should be fine because the HP recovers automatically after a period of time, but it was really too close. If I don't have "Shadow Manipulation", I doubt I could move a finger.

“With this...”

In front of me, I see Momo who is still unconscious. Desperately moving my feet, I approach Momo.

"Momo..."

Even with all the pain, I imagine myself mofumofu-ing Momo. It really feels comfortable to pat Momo... She's so soft and comfortable, I can sleep soundly even in the cold. Ah, what am I thinking at such an occasion...

“Huh...?”

I sense that something isn't right. I've defeated the dark wolf... but where is the announcement about gaining experience? Where is its magic stone?

## Why hasn't the darkness below Momo disappeared?

“ ”

Sweat rolls down my cheek. A chill runs across my spine and my brain issues a warning. No way. No way. No way.

The next second, the darkness below Momo spreads, and a completely uninjured dark wolf emerges.

"You've... got to be... joking..."

There aren't any traces of injury from my attacks.

“ ”

Ah, I see. I've finally noticed. The very essence of this monster. My first impression of it wasn't wrong.

This guy is darkness itself.



Most likely, its true self is within the darkness. Until now, I have been fighting one of its copies. In a sense, it's just like my cloning art. What an interesting twist of fate. The tactic that the dark wolf has used is similar to the one that I have initially used on the dark.

"Damn... it..."

Even after risking everything, I wasn't able to reach the wolf.

"Momo... everyone... I'm sorry..."

I try to step forward, but my consciousness fades away.

A silent world. At the center of it, the dark wolf Schwarz was staring at the person who fell in front of it.

"Superb."

It praised with a sincere heart. Even though it hadn't been at its optimal state after just evolving, it should have been an easy fight. Yet, the result was a close victory. This was undoubtedly an irregularity caused by this human. It was a plan which required luck and left everything for heaven to decide. But still, it was able to deal a solid blow.

"It was a superb battle."

If it did not possess a core "nucleus" it would've been the one to be defeated. It had the new "trait" to thank for. A person who defeated twice, even after it had evolved. It had no choice but to praise him.

"Let me put an end to this battle."

It stepped forward. It would deliver the final blow. This was the duty of the victor. At the very least, it would make everything end swiftly, without any pain.

"Mu?"

In front of the wolf, a single slime stood. With its small and weak body, it was shaking furiously. Once, Schwarz had thought that the slime was being controlled, much like its past self, but it now rejected such notion. The slime had its own will. It was standing in front of Schwarz, a being of absolute strength, by its own will.

"Why do you disturb me so?"

"Furu Furu".

The slime did not respond. It was trying to delay Schwarz as much as it could. A small gunshot was heard, but the darkness automatically prevented the bullet. When it turned round to look, there was a human girl. Despite trembling terribly, she was staring at it with conviction. If they had wanted to escape, they would have had the chance to do so. Still, they did not, because of this male. Standing their grounds, they were trying to go down struggling.

"Indeed... a good group."

A group of people who supported each other without craving for absolute power. So such thing could exist after all.

"Fine."

“And when that time comes...”

“Let us meet again next time.”

"U00000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000  
00000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000N!!!  
!"

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Source: Cipher  
Report

• 0 \*

My consciousness slowly returns. Huh? What was I doing again? I was... I was fighting against the dark wolf when I fainted...

“Aga!”

"Huh? Ichinose-san?"

Ichinose-san turns her head away while holding her nose.

"I'm fi...wait, you're, you're too close!"

She pushes me away with the hand she used to hold her nose. However, she remains close to me as her other hand is holding mine. It's soft.

With her face still turned away, she turns red before providing an explanation. But you could touch just about anywhere for that you know...

Wait a minute. What the hell is happening here?

"Yes?"

"What happened after I fainted?"

When I ask, Ichinose-san's expression turned dark before replying.

"To be truthful, I don't get it either. I don't understand why that monster showed mercy on us..."

"Showed mercy?"

For a moment, I thought I heard wrong.

"Yes. The dark wolf left before landing us the final blow..."

"....Huh?"

What's this about? It's incomprehensible. Is there any reason to let us go in that situation? Ichinose-san seems confused after saying it as well.

"Oh right! Then what about Momo? Is Momo okay?"

"If you're talking about Momo-chan-"

"Wan!"

Before Ichinose-san finishes speaking, Momo appears from my shadow.

"Momo!"

"Kuun."

Momo comes out, rubs herself on my body, and licks my face. She also shakes her tail furiously. Using my free hand, I pat Momo. Un, this feeling, she's authentic.

"Ah Momo. Thank god..."

"Kuuun."

Hugging her with the free hand, tears roll down my eyes. From the bottom of my heart, I feel comfort knowing that she's safe. Even so, a question arises.

"Was Momo spared as well?"

"That seems to be the case..."

I'm getting more and more confused as time passes. What was that dark wolf going to do? The reason behind sparing my life. The reason behind leaving Momo behind. Various hypotheses swim around in my head, but none of them sound plausible. There's no way for me to understand the thought process of monsters.

"Shortly after the dark wolf left, Momo-chan woke up. With her help along with Aka's, we moved you here."

"Here?"

Having heard that, I look around where I am currently at. I see walls and ceilings, as well as stairs and corridors at the corner of my view. Am I in... the school? Even so, I don't feel much presence around me...

"Furu Furu."

"Aka."

I see Aka glued to my leg.

"Furu Furu!"

It sticks to me as if it's trying to say 'Aka was worried you know.' Aka must not have recovered fully either. Its body is around half its original size.

"Sorry, I've made you anxious as well..."

"~~♪ Furu Furu."

When I softly caress the semitransparent body of Aka, it trembles in delight.  
“Huh? Now that I look at myself...”

I check my body. There... aren't any injuries? While my clothes are stained with blood and ripped throughout, other than that, my body isn't harmed in the slightest. I feel slightly tired and dizzy, but that's about it.

“Was this... Ichinose-san?”

“Yesyes... I used an HP recovery potion. I got it from the Gacha again...”

The “Gacha” skill. If I remember correctly, “Gacha”, a skill which Ichinose-san's occupation “Hiki Komori” offers, allows the user to roll the Gacha 3 times and get various useful items in exchange for 1 SP. It was also her potion which healed me after my fight with the high orc.

“It is up around 3 SP, but I was lucky enough to obtain it.”

As if relieved, Ichinose-san shows me the emptied bottle. How did she feed me the potion? I'm very curious, but I don't think it's something I should ask.

“I apologize. To make you use your precious points for my sake...”

3 SP. For me who possesses a bonus boost, it isn't costly, but for Ichinose-san, it must have been quite the expense.

“Ah, it's fine. I obtained decent items and occupations from it as well... and to begin with, this all started due to my selfish desires...”

Her voice trails off by the end, and her expression turns dark again. She must be thinking that she is the main cause of this trouble. Indeed, it's not entirely wrong. If I had ignored Ichinose-san's suggestions and passed through the school, none of this could have happened. But talking about this is meaningless. After all, time cannot be reverted back.

“Ichinose-san, don't mind it too much. I didn't disagree with your plans either, and there were many things that I could have done better. Rather, I should be the one to blame for failing to carry things out properly due to hesitation.”

“No, if I hadn't suggested it in the first place-”

“Nonono, if I had done a better job-”

“No, if I-”

“No, if-”

In the end, we laugh after blaming ourselves and lowering our heads at the same time. Thanks to this, Ichinose-san's expression has become brighter... albeit still looking away from me.

“So Ichinose-san, I want to double check on our situation right now.”

“Yes.”

“You're certain that we're within the school?”

Ichinose-san nods.

“That's peculiar. I don't see any signs of people...”

Yes, it's much too silent. All the noises that we heard when we first infiltrated have vanished. Also, looking closely... rather, just by looking, it is apparent that some parts of the ceiling and the walls have been damaged. Is this the aftermath of our battle? I was too focused in the fight to notice, but

it wouldn't be strange to be implicated because of the dark wolf's wide range of attacks. Did the people here evacuate? When I ask, Ichinose-san shakes her head.

"I'm not too sure either, but just as the dark wolf was about to leave, it howled, drawing in a fair number of monsters here."

...What.

Now that she mentions it, I remember that shadow wolves and lesser wolves also howl to gather their teammates. Maybe their howls contain such special effects.

"After which, I heard things such as screams and screams, and also things like screams and such..."

So you only heard screams. But that is to be expected. Even the army controlled by the monster tamer was a considerable threat to the normal populace. On top of that, the dark wolf destroyed the school and drew in more monsters with its howl. The scene must have looked like the hells of Buddhism.

"Since I'll be at a disadvantage fighting in close quarters within the building, we hid here until Kudou-san woke up. Despite being unable to move, 'Cognitive Impediment' allowed us to remain hidden. After a while, all the sounds disappeared..."

From this, I could only infer that the people ran away in an unorganized manner. There are not many monsters around as they chased after those that fled.

"Is that so..."

I wonder how many managed to escape with their lives. The current world really is harsh on us humans. Damn it.

"Oh, by the way, for how long have I been out cold?"

"Around an hour or so."

An hour... After suffering so much damage, I should be happy about recovering after an hour. Speaking of which, how much HP have I regained? I open the status screen to check.

HP: 180/180

MP: 35/35

Both my HP and MP are full. I guess this is the effect of Ichinose-san's recovery potion. It's amazing that it could recover both MP and HP simultaneously. Is it an elixir?

"Speaking of which, Ichinose-san, what happened to your friend?"

When I ask casually, Ichinose-san's shoulder shudders.

"I don't know. After the fight, I sent a mail, but there has been no reply."

Or so she says. Did Ichinose-san who loves spamming mails just say that she sent only one? For her to make such a normal judgment. Does she have a fever?

"Um... are you thinking about something very rude right now?"

"It's just your imagination."

I turn my face away to check my conditions. Yeah, it seems like I won't have any problems with normal movements.

"Let's move. There isn't any point staying here anymore."

"You're...right."

I'm curious about what happened to Nishino-kun and Rikka-chan, but since they received the mail, they must be alive at the very least. Then there will be a chance to meet again. But then again, that student council president and that twin could be around them. While monsters are dangerous, the student council president is a source of danger in her own way. Those twins as well. They're unforgivable. The next time we meet, I'll make them suffer from the Item Box from a distance away. On a more serious note, I should be cautious when I encounter them again. Since I can move again, staying here would be a dangerous move. We should find another place. I activate "Enemy Detection". With "Profession Enhancement", the skill is enhanced, allowing more area to be covered. I don't sense any powerful monsters around. As for humans... un, I can sense a few. Have they missed their opportunities to run away? Seeing as they aren't moving, they must be either hiding or injured.

"Wan!"

While I am thinking, Momo suddenly dashes out.

"H-Hey, what's wrong?!"

I chase Momo while carrying Ichinose-san. Inside the dim school, blood and flesh are scattered all over the place. With the corpses laying about, it is easy to imagine what occurred here.

"Wan!"

After a while, Momo stops. In the direction of her sight, there is a person who has fallen down while leaning on the walls. I don't see anyone around her.

"That's..."

I am not unfamiliar with the person. A person wearing a miniskirt and having flashy hairs tied into a side-tail. A girl wearing uniforms that have been destroyed, exuding the feeling of a gal. A considerable number of magic stones lay around her feet. Ichinose-san also turned her head from my side to look at her.

"...Ricchan?"

Laying on the ground with blood around her is the classmate that Ichinose-san has been searching for, Aisaka Rikka.

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Chapter 88

Source: Cipher

Report

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A faint ray of light that is coming in from a broken window illuminates Rikka-chan. With "Night Vision", I can see her clearly even without the light, but this is not the case for Ichinose-san. The moment she sees Rikka-chan who is covered in blood, her expression changes.

"This can't be true... Ricchan... RICCH-mugu..."

"You shouldn't scream so loudly. Even with all our skills, we should still be careful of our surroundings."

"...(nod)"

Ichinose-san who is depressed eventually calms down after I cover her mouth with some shadows. Even though we have "Cognitive Impediment" and "Attention Cutoff", there are no absolutes in this world. I've already confirmed with "Enemy Detection" that there aren't any humans or monsters nearby, but it's better to be safe than sorry. Along with Ichinose-san (or rather with her on my back), I quickly approach Rikka-chan who has fallen down.

"Wan!"

Momo barks besides Rikka-chan, telling us to be faster. Having met her before, Momo must have remembered Rikka-chan's smell. Then again, Momo seems to display terrific judgment abilities under situations like this. Is it her instinct?

"Urgh..."

Rikka-chan shows a reaction when I nudge her. Good. She's alive. But she's barely holding on. She's in a terrible condition. There are cuts all around her body, and a chunk of flesh is missing on one of her sides. Under normal circumstances, it wouldn't have been weird if she died. For her to still be alive, she must possess some life-saving skills. Is it a skill that heightens the user's recovery? Is it Self-Recovery? Regeneration? When we saved her a while back, she also seemed to have recovered swiftly. Regardless, something has to be done quickly. Where's Nishino-kun? Weren't they together? Were they separated? Or perhaps - Nonono, this isn't the time to have my thoughts wander.

"Ichinose-san, do you have any recovery medicine?"

"...No I don't. I have to get them again through Gatcha..."

"How many SP do you have left?"

"....1."

So there's only one chance. If transferring SP is possible, she can use mine, but...

" 'Gatcha'! "

Ichinose-san activates the skill without hesitation. This is the first time witnessing the "Gatcha" skill in action. So this is how it works... In front of my eyes, a retro box with a lever appears out of nowhere. It's like the ones in candy shops. What is that black band on top of the lever? It kind of looks like a slot?

"Please! Come out!"

Slowly, Ichinose-san pulls the lever. The prize that comes out is...

Why did this happen? As her consciousness slowly faded, Rikka asked herself such a question. An unknown howl resonated throughout the cafeteria while she was fighting the monsters. The monsters, especially the lesser wolves that Rikka was facing, abruptly stopped moving in fear. No, they appeared to be in awe. Anyway, the truth did not matter as the situation was to her advantage.

Shaking off Nishino who tried to stop her, she left the cafeteria after passing through the waves of monsters. Unknowingly, she headed towards the direction of the howl. There wasn't any basis for her actions, but something compelled her to do so. For some reason, she felt like she could meet the person she was looking for if she went in that direction.

That girl.

Ichinose Natsu.

A girl who was her best friend.

Was. In the past.

More than a year has passed since her best friend dropped out of school. The cause was bullying. Refusing to attend school after constantly receiving insidious harassment from her classmates, Ichinose dropped out. The leader behind it all was Rikka – or so everyone in school believed. However, reality was different. She was oblivious to the situation. The fact that her best friend was getting bullied. The fact that the bullies were the people in her group. And– the fact that she was the reason behind it all.

When she entered high school, Rikka had completely changed her appearance. It was the so-called high school debut. With her appearance and amiable personality, she soon became the center of the class. Even beyond the confinements of the class, she had close friends in other classes. Nevertheless, even when she changed her appearance and class, she continued to interact with her best friend. But some people found this uninteresting. Rikka was someone at the top of the school's caste system. On the other hand, the bland girl was someone at the bottom of the pyramid.

Unfit. Repulsive. Such thoughts were present. Jealousy. Feelings of inferiority. Among the people that Rikka hung out with, there were also some that had similar thoughts. Unknown to Rikka, their hatred turned into fangs, preying on her best friend. By the time she was noticed of the situation, everything was too late. Not only did her best friend leave school, she was framed as the culprit under a careful planned ploy. She was unable to meet or communicate with her as Ichinose's parents and the school did not allow them. In this fashion, Rikka lost her close friend.

Despite having a hole in her heart, she tried to act like she was fine, pretending as if nothing had happened. Yet they met again. In this world filled to the brim with monsters. Upon seeing her face, she felt like her emotions would explode. She wanted to play with her. Talk with her. She wanted to go shopping with her, choose clothes with her, play games with her, and live a normal life with her.



(But I guess... it won't be possible... anymore...)

She had to fight a series of battles even after leaving the cafeteria. There were more monsters than she expected within the school premise. Fight. Search. Fight. Search. Fight. Search. Now, Rikka was burnt out. She couldn't feel her limbs anymore. She knew that she was slumped against a wall, but even breathing in and out pained her body. She was about to die. Even knowing so, all she could envision was her friend's face.

(...I wanted... to apologize...)

Before she breathed her last. She wanted to apologize. And if possible, she wanted to protect her friend this time around.

(I don't want to die...)

If she died, she wouldn't be able to apologize. If she died, she wouldn't be able to protect her. That's why she didn't want to die. Suddenly, she heard footsteps. What were they?

"Wan!"

It was a bark from a dog. Following that, she also heard the sound of someone running towards her. Who are they? Two people? She couldn't see clearly. She couldn't see clearly either. She felt like she heard someone shouting something. It was a voice she remembered hearing somewhere. It was like the voice of a very important... Yes, it sounded like the voice of the person she had searched for so desperately- Ah... she was becoming more and more drowsy. She was about to lose her consciousness.

Something went into her mouth. Liquid? No, it was more like a jelly. She swallowed it. At that moment, she felt like her body was being pulled out from the bottom of a dark and cold lake. She felt like her body was burning from the inside. The blood which had refused to flow circulated throughout her body, and her heart started to pump repetitively. At the same time, she felt an excruciating pain. It was evidence that her limbs had recovered their senses.

"Gagha...!?"

Her mind was hazy. Her body felt powerless. Exhaustion flooded her body. Nevertheless, she heard the voice. The voice calling for her name was -

"...Ah."

She slowly opened her eyes. Just opening her eyes was exhausting for her current state. Although it was blurry, reflected on her eyes which were covered in blood was the figure of an individual.

"...Wha...t?"

She couldn't voice her words properly. It was unbelievable. She saw the girl that she had wanted to meet in front of her.

"Thank god... Ricchan... Thank god..."

She was hugged. It felt warm. The face of her best friend who she had finally met after one year of separation looked terrible. Not only was she wet with tears, she wasn't wearing makeup either. It was a pity despite her outstanding features.

"Natsun...I'm... sorry... that... I didn't... notice... I'm... sorry... Because... of me... you weren't... able... to attend... school..."

"...!?"

"I'm... sorry... Even... if you can't... forgive me... I wanted... to... apologize..."

She wanted to apologize. For a long, long time, she had wanted to apologize. It might have been too late to do so. It might have not changed anything. However, she, Ichinose Natsu, smiled at her.

"It's okay... As long as Ricchan is alive and I could meet with you again, it's okay..."

"Natsun..."

"For a long time, I wanted to see you..."

"Yeah... I wanted to see you too..."

On this day, the two girls finally reunited.

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Chapter 89

Source: Cipher

Report

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Igarashi Touka, the student council president, was holding onto her head.

"Damn! Damn! Damn! What was that monster?!"

Irritated as she was, her normally dignified behavior was nowhere to be seen. If an acquaintance saw her in this state, he or she would have wondered if she was the same person. However, her frustration was justified. After all, everything she toiled for during the past 4 days got destroyed in a short time's notice.

"That was completely outside of my expectation. Everything I was planning to do cannot be done now."

Things were going well until the middle. The traitor hiding within the school, Katsuragi Sayaka, released an army of monsters which led to quite a bit of casualties, but they were able to defeat them. Yet the appearance of that dark wolf completely turned the table against them. That monster's attacks half destroyed the entire school. Furthermore, the monsters that were attracted by its howl killed many of the students and evacuees that were present. Afterwards, everyone fled in different directions, cutting off all forms of communication. To begin with, as phones were no longer usable, there wasn't any method to communicate with them.

"Just in case, we have already agreed upon an emergency meeting point, but..."

How many people would be present? How many people could maintain their calm and reasoning? Even she was like this. It wouldn't be weird if people like Glasses... no, if people like vice president Miyamoto were already dead. She also got separated with Nishino and Aisaka, both of whom she deemed

promising stocks. Touka felt dizzy, feeling as if her surroundings were gradually falling apart.

“Ah... why did things progress like this...”

If she took off her mask as the dictator of the school, she was just another high-school girl. The events that took place during the 4 days took a toll on her mind. What if her hair turned gray at her age? The very thought repulsed her.

“Since using speakers could attract the monsters, I guess the best way is to gather people by posting messages on walls or telephone poles at regular intervals.”

These types of things are often used during disasters. At this moment in time, she had to rely on such methods. Fortunately, she had papers and tapes on her hand. While posting these messages, she would slowly approach the meeting place. If monsters could read, everything would be over. However, if she was paranoid of such possibilities, there would be no end to her troubles.

“Ah, seriously. All of this is irritating me!”

Proficiency has reached a certain threshold

Stress Resistance has increased from LV2 to LV3

“Oh is that so? I’m sooooo grateful.”

She took out a precious candy from her pocket and shoved it in her mouth. The sweet flavor of the lemon candy gradually spread throughout her mouth. Breathing in deeply, she waited for the sugar and oxygen to reach her brain. Finally, she felt a bit better.

“Fuuu... calm down Igarashi Touka. Not everything is over... I’m still alive. Shiori and Shidou are both safe as well... it’s fine. Everything is fine...”

She consoled herself. She had to organize the information. Currently, she was hiding in a vacant house after running away from the monsters. Her siblings and two female members of the student council, the secretary and the general affairs officer, were with her. The brother and sister were already asleep while the other two were taking turns on the lookout. As a result, no one had seen her behave the way she did a moment ago.

“First off, I should gather the other members quickly. After that, we should find a place that can act as our new base...”

Gathering information about the surrounding area, slaying monsters, establishing a communication network with other evacuation centers, securing safe areas, and gathering supplies like food and medical products were all important. Slowly but surely, she was organizing her thoughts.

“By the way, who was that person fighting against the dark wolf?”

The mysterious individual who was wearing a hood and holding a knife. She was late and wasn’t able to meet him in the cafeteria, but she heard that the person suddenly popped out of nowhere and commenced battling with Katsuragi Sayaka. There was no doubt that the person had a high level and powerful skills. She was also informed that the twins had misfired. When

she first heard the news, she had a headache. After telling them so much details about the monster tamer, the twins...

"Is there any way to contact that individual?"

If that individual was willing to cooperate, then they would be able to boost their strengths greatly. According to the report, Aisaka Rikka also showed some peculiar behaviors before the battle. Regardless, her first priority was to meet up with her people. There was a reason behind this hurry.

In this fashion, Igarashi Touka pondered about her future plans until she fell asleep. It is said that her "Fatigue Resistance" leveled up because of this.

In an alley which was a small distance away from the school, Nishino was hiding himself. Facing the army of monsters, he was able to somehow escape from the perilous situation.

"Haa... Haa... so I managed somehow..."

With his back on a wall, he hid himself behind trash cans and breathed out deeply.

"Rikka, what exactly was wrong with you?"

In his mind, he remembered the girl who was his partner dash out of the cafeteria by herself. What happened? Where did she go afterwards?

"Is it related to Ichinose?"

He thought of the girl who Rikka bullied before. Now that he thought about it, Rikka's behaviors were strange ever since the battle at the schoolyard.

Her behavior before their fight with Katsuragi Sayaka was also very obviously suspicious.

(What should I do? Look for Rikka? No, should I be looking for the student council president? Yes, I should protect my student coun... Huh? Why do I think so?)

Nishino tilted his head, feeling uncomfortable about his line of reasoning.

His priority should have been grouping back up with Shibata and Oono. Yet why did he think about president Igarashi first?

"..."

He didn't have an answer to this. However, he felt uneasy. It was like his thoughts were being overwritten-. Nishino did not know this, but this discomfort was a sign that the effect of Touka's "Enchantment" was fading. Her "Enchantment" was not something permanent. It had a time limit, and its effects diminished as the time limit approached. To prevent this, Touka often "stacked" her skill, but since they were currently separated, Nishino's thoughts were returning to normal. It could be said that he was lucky.

"Gigi...!"

"...!"

Suddenly, while he was in deep contemplation, he heard deep groans. When he turned to look, he saw that two goblins had entered the alley.

(This is bad... to face monsters right now...)

He currently lacked the power to even run. Is this the end? However, his luck had not run out just yet.

ZUN!

The goblins trying to enter the alley were crushed by something heavy.  
“...What?”

The object which appeared in front of him was... a log. A log had crushed the goblin. It took him some time to recognize this truth.

“How was it, Shibata-kun! Ojisan is also quite capable right? Hawahahaha.”

“Well, I mean it’s amazing and all, but Ossan, there are plenty of other weapons that you can use... so why a log?”

“As someone who worked with wood before, this feels the most familiar for me.”

“Oh... is that so...”

Hearing the voices, Nishino subconsciously stood up and shouted.

“Are you Shibata?”

“...Eh? Seriously? Nishino-san?! Great! So you were well!”

The yankee student who found Nishino – Shibata – smiled brightly. Also, the people that were following him were the students that scattered from the home center.

“Why are you here?”

“So we were trying to head to the school with this ossan, but it took us more time than we anticipated. We were looking for a place to rest when we stumbled across these goblins...”

And Nishino had been besides the goblins that were crushed.

“So that’s the case... anyways, it’s great to see that you’re safe.”

“Yep...”

While they were rejoicing their union, they heard someone sniffing from behind. It was the ossan crying. His name was Goshogawara Hachiro (Age 55), and he was the president of Hanamaru Sawmill.

“Good thing, Shibata-kun. You were able to unite with your friend safely... sniff sniff.”

“Thanks, Ossan. Honestly, you guys were a big help.”

“Between us, what is there to thank? Isn’t there a saying about ‘helping each other in times of need’? You can rely more on adults you know?”

“Huh. When I first met Ossan, you were all nervous and shrunken.”

“Hey. I thought that was our secret. You really don’t respect your elders.”

Saying this, Shibata and the Ossan laughed. They must have fought in many battles together on their way here. Their friendship was one between fellow men which transcended the limitations of age.

“Let’s find somewhere we can take a break. There’s a lot that we have to discuss.”

“Thas right. We should start moving.”

Putting aside their happiness, they began to move. Even so, thought Nishino. The log appeared at the corner of his view. Seeing that it was soaked in blood, there was no doubt that it was used to slay monsters. (There is a feeling of mismatch imagining a fat man wearing suits equipping this.)

Once again, Nishino was amazed at the log in front of him.

After their union, Ichinose-san and Rikka-chan fell asleep as if they fainted. This should be the case with Rikka-chan as well, but Ichinose-san must have been exhausted. This is in particular because she had to keep a vigilant watch while I had not opened my eyes.

"Now then. Momo, I'll be relying on you."

"Wan!"

Leaving Momo behind to keep watch, I wander around in the school building. Not only am I doing this to double check on the safety around this area, I am also doing this to refresh my mood. I know through "Enemy Detection" that only weak monsters such as goblins are present right now inside the school. It should be safe even if I am alone. In fact, cleaning them up didn't take much time.

"In the end, I didn't find any other survivor aside from Rikka-chan."

While walking around, I looked for survivors, but I didn't find any. There are only corpses left. Although they smell bad, I'll have to leave them alone.

"Haa..."

When I look up, I see the moon. It might be the effect of not having any more access to electricity, but I can see the night sky more clearly than before.

"What are we going to do..."

I blurt out this question. Ichinose-san and Rikka-chan reunited. However, we haven't decided on what to do from now on. It is unknown whether she'll join us as a party member or whether we'll go our separate ways...

"...Ichinose-san will most likely make me choose..."

Within her heart, she'll no doubt want Rikka-chan as a party member.

However, I feel like she'll leave the final decision to me.

"Rikka-chan as a party member..."

Two beautiful JKs and one man. From the outside, it should look like a harem. Rikka-chan's breasts are big and all. But then again, I haven't set any flags.

"..."

Talking to myself, I feel somewhat strange. How should I put this. Things like harem sound envious only through screens. In reality, many people would hold their heads and worry about what to do. In the first place, I haven't really warmed up to Ichinose-san either.

"In that sense, being alone really is the best."

I would not have to stand in the shoes of other people. I would only have to mind my own business. That was how I lived when I was working in a company. I worked on the tasks that were assigned and kept my relationship with colleagues at the level of talking. Some juniors approached me from time to time, but I just went with the flow. It was because I found it tedious. I thought it was fine to behave that way.

"It's hard being with other people..."

I scratch my head. Ah, it's so troublesome. Things don't go as planned.

Stress builds up. If it was a few days before, I wouldn't have to be thinking

of things like this. But it's true that Ichinose-san has saved my life. And there's me, who also feels motivated thinking about Aka, Momo, and Ichinose-san. The ease of being alone and the importance of companionship. The trade-off is making my head twirl.

- Don't you want to live as you like?

Suddenly, I remember the words of the monster tamer. That girl was satisfied with this world. She claimed that it was because this was a world where she could fully express her true self.

"To live as I like..."

This is easier said than done.

"I wish I could also make such clear decisions..."

The mutter did not reach anyone's ears and melted into the darkness of the night. The turbulent fourth day, which was filled with loss, mistakes, and defeat, came to an end.

T.N: And that marks the end of another arc. How was it? I apologize for the late update. This week had been filled with exams, so I was not able to translate in time. Anyways, I really feel like this novel is obnoxiously slow-paced. Do you guys want to read another novel? Please comment below for reference. Thanks.

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Chapter 90

Source: Cipher

Report

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He was attacking people on that day as well. As it was the night of a new moon, there was no moonlight. It was the perfect opportunity to attack humans. Surrounded by darkness, the only source of light was that from a torch. The only sounds that were audible came from the clicking hooves of horses and the rubbing wheels of a wagon. Travelling on the wagon was a lone old man without any guards.

Travelling under the night sky, the old man held the reins loosely as if to show his fatigue. Perhaps he didn't hire an escort in order to save money. Perhaps he was careless because the roads were well-maintained and safe. Perhaps there was another reason. However, it didn't matter.

The old man was the perfect target for him. Hiding his sound and aura, he slowly approached his prey. The first to realize the impending predator was the horse that was pulling the wagon. Hyiiiiiiiiiiiiin!! With a loud neigh from the horse, the caravan suddenly came to a stop

"Wha-what happened.....?"

The old man also noticed something unusual. But it was too late. He approached the old man and attacked without hesitation.

"Kishaaaaaa!!"

"What the hell!! GYAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!"

There were sounds of something being shredded followed by sounds of something spraying out. The terrified horse began to gallop away, throwing him and the old man onto the ground.

"Arghh...urgh..."

The old man had perished. There was a sickly sound of chewing that echoed and eventually disappeared into the darkness.

"You have gained experience."

A voice resonated within his head. But he didn't understand what that meant. He didn't have any intelligence to understand.

"Guh....?"

He looked around without knowing what he was doing. There was no one around. He repeated this action continuously.

No matter how many times he did this, he was a zombie without any intelligence or the capacity to learn. He merely repeated his actions, attacking people in sight. But he was a little different from all the other zombies. He had never been slain by humans, and he always managed to successfully prey on humans. The number of preys he had caught easily exceeded a hundred.

How can I hunt efficiently? How can I not have my preys retaliate? How can I not be hunted?

It was different from learning. The zombie understood these by instinct.

That was how it had survived until now.

"Amu...au...n..."

The sounds ceased. The "meal" was over. The moment he stood up with in satisfaction, "that" occurred. With a "Zun!", he felt himself shaking tremendously.

"Ahh?"

The violent shaking could only be expressed as the anger of the earth.

Unable to keep standing, he fell down on the spot. He rolled with accordance to the movement of the earth. Tens of seconds later, the shaking finally stopped.

"Gah...?"

What had happened? He stood up and looked around at his surroundings.

There, he saw a person standing a short distance away. Even though there had been no one around a few moments ago, this person had suddenly appeared out of nowhere.

"Ugrhh...That was one heck of a shake..."

He was a skinny middle-aged man with glasses. The man was dressed in a ceremonial suit worn by nobles and was holding a box on his hand.

"Really, watching over a building that is to be redeveloped in the middle of the night is downright unlucky. That bastard of a president is so annoying... throwing all the work at me."

Muttering some inaudible nonsense, the middle-aged man was approaching.

"I can't see anything... it's so dark. Uh, phone, where's my phone?"

"Gah?"



Once the middle-aged man turned on his phone, their eyes met.

"Huh? HYAHH!! What is this monster!?"

The man's tongues were tied.

"KYAHHHHHHHHHH!!"

He reflexively attacked the man. He understood instinctively. This prey is weak. It was an opponent he could hunt. True to his thoughts, the middle-aged man was easily caught.

"AHHHHHH! STOP! GO AWAY!"

The man struggled desperately to escape, but his strength was stronger. As the middle-aged man fell to the ground, he went on top of him as if to ride on a horse.

"HEY.....!! ANYONE.....HEL...."

The words did not last to the end. There was a sound of chewing. Mogu mogu. He chewed continuously. The next moment, he heard a voice in his head yet again.

"You have gained experience."

"First kill confirmed at Chaos Frontier."

"First kill bonus given."

"You have acquired the skill 'Arrogance'."

"Along with the acquisition of 'Arrogance', the experience up to this point will be reset."

"Level has become 1."

This time, the voice resonated longer than usual. , a "change" occurred to him.

"Guh.....!?"

Severe pain struck his whole body. It was as if his body was being recreated from inside. Involuntarily holding his chest, he crouched down. After a while, the pain subsided. When he got up, he noticed the change. Power was surging throughout his body. His nerves which should have been lost were stimulated, and he felt pleasure all over his body.

"....."

He understood the changes that had taken place and smiled. On this day, at this moment, the world changed and "He" was born.

[Skill: "Arrogance"]

A skill given to a monster which has slain the first human after the two worlds merged. When experience is gained, a huge correction would be made. The monster which has acquired this skill would have its experience reset in exchange for high intelligence and reasoning. Carrying a Sin and guided by Fate, the monster would become an existence that leads other monsters.

TN: Sorry for the late update. This time around, the main translator was busy, so another translator helped out. Cipher would be merging with Nobles, so please continue to support us. Thank you!!

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Chapter 91  
Source: Cipher  
Report

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For the time being, he started walking. Perhaps it was because it was nighttime, he met no one else aside from the middle-aged man. His impression after walking on the paved road was “great”. There were pillars placed at regular intervals on the well-maintained roads, illuminating the surrounding area even at midnight. What kind of mechanism was this? It aroused his curiosity. After a while, the lights dissipated, but it didn’t matter for him as he could see in the darkness. He only thought that it was a pity that such beautiful lights disappeared.

Around five minutes later, he saw a large structure in front of him. What was this? He walked closer. It was a tall building. Was this made by humans? However, he couldn’t sense any humans around. He hesitated on what to do. He looked around his surrounding before losing to his curiosity and entering the building. When he tried to enter from what seemed to be the entrance, he was obstructed by something.

Gotsun!

What was this? An invisible barrier stopped him from entering. Once again, he tried to enter, only to hit the invisible barrier. He was frustrated.

Without knowing anything, he pounded upon the barrier. As he was clueless, he didn’t have any knowledge to recognize the substance called glass.

He pounded, pounded, and pounded even harder. Eventually, a crack appeared on the barrier. He smiled. This invisible barrier was breakable. He pounded harder than before.

Gasshaaaan!

Along with such a sound, the invisible barrier broke down. He extended his arm. His hand was able to pass through the barrier which impeded him before. It seemed as if he could enter now. As such, he entered the building and roamed around. Some glass pieces got stuck onto his foot, but an injury of this degree didn’t faze him in the slightest.

Sometime later, a bookshelf appeared in front of his eyes. From there, he took one book out of the shelf. There was something written on it. He was oblivious to the fact that he was inside of a library. Observing the book carefully, he eventually came to a conclusion. This object recorded the knowledge of humans. Humans were intelligent creatures. To prevent forgetting valuable information, humans tended to store their experience in other forms. Nevertheless, he couldn’t comprehend it. He knew that there existed some sort of pattern in the writing, but without knowing how to read, he couldn’t do anything.

“.....”

Even so, he turned the pages crazily. Eventually, he came upon a page which contained not only words but pictures as well. It was the so-called animal picture book. There were words below the pictures of animals. This probably indicated the names of said animals.

He was grateful for this. By laying out the letters and organizing them together, there might be some pattern he could identify. He read. He read. He read. For some animals, he realized that the same letters were used. There must be some rule in this. But what was this rule? A reason for the same letter to be used in different names... in other words, it was the pronunciation.

Same letters meant the same meaning. He read one book after another, all the while nodding. Animal picture books, plant picture books, insect picture books, cosmic picture books, and so on. Arranging each word and phrase, he looked out for patterns. From this, he learned that there were various characters outside of the ones used for names, such as characters connecting several words, characters indicating the state of the words, and characters indicating numbers and scales.

He was immersed in reading. If he had anything to complain about, it was the sound that kept ringing. Ever since he entered the building, he began to hear sounds. He believed that it was a signal indicating that the barrier was broken, but no human ever arrived. In the first place, no one was inside the building. Why was it that no one was inside despite the building being so large? Soon, he lost interest in this topic and chose to concentrate on the book in front of him.

Nobody knew how much time elapsed, but the outside was completely bright. There were many books scattered near his feet. As he was immersed in his reading, he didn't notice the passage of time. He mostly understood the rules of letters. came the pronunciation. Although he understood the letters and the grammar behind them, speaking with accurate pronunciation was something completely different. So how should he proceed? The answer was simple. If he doesn't know how to do it, he simply had to find someone who did. It was time to hunt.

When he exited the building, the morning sun greeted him. He squinted because of the sheer brightness. He smiled at such unimportant things. It was because he couldn't enjoy such things before. On a basic level, zombies had low vision and had to hunt by detecting their preys' presence or sound. However, it was different for him now. He could see better than ever before. The surrounding scenery appeared clearly visible. He thanked himself for his current state.

Looking around, he saw smoke and heard screams coming from people here and there. Without having to detect the people's presence, he knew where they were. He moved towards the direction where the people seemed to be. After walking for a while, he arrived at an open place. He could see cracks all over the ground, with some parts of the ground being higher than others.

It was probably because of the earthquake from the day before. Hiding, he looked around and found his prey.

There were two humans where his gaze landed. There was an injured girl being supported by a boy. There was no one else around them. They were his target. Eliminating his presence, he slowly crept up behind the humans. Rushing out from the bushes, he first bit into the throat of the male.

“-! Wha, there is a zon gyAAAAAAAAA!”

Having his throat ripped off, the boy died instantly.

“You have gained experience.”

“ ‘s level has increased from 1 to 2.”

A voice resounded in his head. Ignoring the voice, he approached the girl. Looking at him and the boy who had his throat ripped off, the girl’s expressions turned into despair. Why did she make such an expression? He had yet to comprehend human emotions.

“Hyiii... Nooooooooo...”

He walked closer to the shivering girl. The girl screamed and tried to escape. Of course, he did not allow this. Grabbing onto her ankles, he pulled, pulling the girl onto the ground. He tried this because it was on one of the books he found yesterday. If he did this, he knew that humans wouldn’t be able to move because of their innate structure. He understood this as he saw it on an illustration.

“Ouch... a... aaaaa...”

As expected, the injured girl couldn’t move away. Knowledge was great. He could gain power so easily. He believed that knowledge was equivalent to power. As a result, he yearned for it. Dragging the girl, he headed back to the building before. Because she resisted, he beat her and made her silent. When he arrived at the library, he pushed the book towards the girl who was dragged here.

“Huh?...What?”

“■■■”

“Eh? A...eh?”

He had told her to read, but it appeared that she didn’t know what he said. Since there was no other way, he used gestures to say “Read the book”. Finally, the girl seemed to understand. While shivering, the girl read the book as ordered. He remembered each word carefully. The content of the book, which he just completely memorized because of his inability to read, was stored in his head. What was left was the pronunciation. Just by learning how to pronounce, his understanding would increase to a new level.

While urging her to read the second book and then the third, he began to absorb the knowledge at a frightening pace. The language was Japanese. Japanese involved the usage of Kanji, Katakana, and Hiragana. By combining them, words and sentences could be formed. Fascinating. New information continuously flowed into him. He could feel himself getting

more and more powerful. Greatly moved, he ordered her to continue reading.

--You can stop. I roughly understand now."

Having heard this, the girl shivered in surprise. Afterwards, she showed a shocked face. It was because the creature who she deemed incapable of speaking her language suddenly conversed with her.

"Um.... Do you understand... what I'm saying?"

"Yes, I could thanks to you."

He smiled. The captured girl seemed relieved as well. As communication was possible, a faint ray of hope appeared inside her heart.

"Uh... I did exactly as I was told, so can you spar-KYAAAA"

"I have no use for you."

He broke the girl's neck without hesitation. The girl met her demise. She was no longer useful, so he got rid of her. That was all there was to it.

"You have gained experience."

He heard a voice in his head. Ignoring the voice, he stared at the girl who was now a silent corpse.

"...Um, if I remember correctly, in this situation I'm supposed to say..."

He smiled once again.

"Thank you. I'm grateful."

Having utilized something he just learned, he was satisfied.

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Chapter 92

Source: Cipher

Report

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Within some office building

In the lobby, several men and women wearing suits were engaged in a battle with monsters.

"Gigii!!"

Roaring, the goblin rushed towards them. Upon seeing the grotesque appearance of the goblin and hearing its voice, one of the women that were at the rear screamed a short "Hiii!". Despite having fought against goblins many times, it was not something that one could easily get used to.

"This damn...!"

Suddenly, a woman with glasses that looked like a secretary stepped forward with a sasumata, using the sasumata's tip to capture the goblin's neck and hinder its mobility.

"Ikeda-kun! Now!"

"Yes!"

Quickly, the one named Ikeda used his shovel to pound on the goblin's head.

"Gigaa!?"

Along with the goblin's cry of death, a magic stone dropped to the ground. The announcement is made within his head. The man who landed the final blow does a small guts pose.

"Yossh. Easy win."

"Don't put your guard down... Nijou-san, do you sense other monsters nearby?"

"Um, yes... I think... we're safe right now."

"That's good. Since that is the case, let's take a break. Ikeda-kun, can you head upstairs and call for the next group of people?"

"Okay."

"Also, if you see any boards or nails leftover, bring them with you. We have to fix the damaged parts of the barricade."

The secretary-like woman swiftly gave instructions. Watching this scene unfold, Nijou Kamome, the woman from before who was frightened by the goblin, wondered.

How long would this situation persist?

It was already the third day since monsters started overflowing the world. They stayed in the company while maintaining a tight line of defense. By sealing off the entrances and performing shifts, they kept an environment where they could deal with anything unexpected quickly. Thanks to this, they were able to keep the casualty at zero until this day.

Even so, they were approaching their limits. They had continued to fight against monsters without knowing when help would arrive. Furthermore, they weren't able to eat or sleep satisfactorily. More than anything, they weren't able to take showers, and they had to keep wearing the same thing for the past few days. On both hygienic and mental level, she had reached her limit.

"Um, Shimizu-san."

"What is it?"

"So... for how long are we supposed to do this?"

"..."

Facing Kamome's question, the secretary like-woman, Shimizu, showed a bitter expression.

".... I suppose until we can guarantee and secure our safety."

"...! And when will that be!? It's already the third day! There's no sign of help arriving, and we have no idea what's happening outside! What's going to become of us from now on? And that person -"

Nijou screamed as if to exhale all the stress that accumulated up to that point. The thing that came to her mind was the face of a senior who left the workplace late, although only by about two hours, around three days ago. That person also had a dull face while he worked. His performance was below average, and he was someone who kept his distance with others, claiming that he was himself and others were others. Despite this... he exuded a peculiar feeling of attraction. That person might not have noticed

this, but many of her colleagues were conscious of him. Was he safe? Was he still alive? She felt her heart ache just thinking about these questions. "Calm down, Nijou-san. I also think that it isn't good to maintain this situation."

"Then...!"

"But... there are people that don't think this way. There are people that are waiting, believing that rescue would arrive if they are patient."

This was primarily the opinion of the higher-ups. To maintain the status quo without taking unnecessary risks. The idea was not illogical. However, time did not allow this.

"... How are we going to address the issue about food? Even water... we don't know for how long water would be available..."

Listening to this, Shimizu's expression sobered up. The food in vending machines and emergency reserves were running out.

"I've been trying to speak with the directions many times."

Yesterday, when she saw that the food stock was running out, Shimizu tried to consult with her bosses. She suggested leveling up and sending a few elites outside to secure food or establish contact with other survivors.

However, the replies were always the same.

—Let's maintain the status quo.

That was it. A proper conversation was never made.

"Do they even understand the current circumstances? Those people are not raising their levels either..."

"Well, uh..."

Speaking of this topic really brought about a wave of headaches. Currently, there were thirty-two people inside the company building. Among them, only nine people slew monsters to gain levels. These people were all young, ranging from those in their twenties to their thirties. On the other hand, none of the senior employees were willing to raise levels. When they held votes, these people's opinions always took precedence over their own. (Why are these directors' opinions prioritized over ours when we are the ones fighting with their lives...)

To Kamome, the situation felt too unreasonable. She understood that the directors' opinions were absolute before because they were operating under a company. However, in this situation, she felt like the opinions of those that fought with their lives on the lines should have a voice. How much authority did the baldies who always cower in fear have anyways? Was she wrong to think this way?

"I can understand what the chiefs are trying to say... Since we don't know what is outside, leaving the building recklessly is dangerous. Even the manager who went to inspect the building undergoing redevelopment never returned..."

"Let's get real here. Isn't it just because there would be less people guarding them if we leave?"

"That's just how companies operate, Nijou-san. People in different positions have different opinions. In the workplace, it isn't rare to see the opinions of the boss and subordinates conflict. And it isn't like we can really judge which side is more correct. Even so... there is clearly insufficient food right now, so the higher-ups would eventually have to give their approval. I'll try my best to persuade them, so until then, please be patient."

Listening to Shimizu's words, Kamome began to understand what her boss has been feeling up until this point.

(This person must have had it hard as well...)

She was sandwiched in-between the high-ups and the bottom workers. She must be the most exhausted out of them all. The dark circles under her eyes and her tired expression speak for themselves. Her beauty was being wasted. This person, if she remembered correctly, was 28 this year. Did she have a boyfriend? Well, it didn't really matter in this situation.

"Shimizu-san, umm... please don't push yourself too much. I'll try my best to help you. After all, if you were to fall, it'll be a disaster."

The only reason a riot didn't occur in the company was because this woman tried her best to persuade everyone. Without her, it was highly likely that this group of people would have collapsed by now.

"Fu fu. If you say so, I guess there was some point in doing this. Look, Ikeda and his guys are here. Let's go to the resting area and I'll brew you some coffee while the gas is still usable."

That was right. To respond to Shimizu-san's efforts, she had to be patient and cooperate. As such, Kamome smiled forcibly.

"Yes, the coffee that Shimizu-san brews is really delicious."

Having said so, she was about to begin walking. However, it happened the very next moment.

Zuntsutsutsu!

Along with a loud sound, the building they were in shook violently.

"H-huh?"

"An earthquake? And a big one at that?"

"Everyone, don't move from your positions!"

Unrest ran among everyone present.

Zuun! Zuuun!

Accompanied by such sounds, the shaking intensified.

"Is this the sound of... footsteps?"

"D-don't make... such a joke... footsteps this loud can't ... possibly..."

If these were the sounds of footsteps, how large of an existence must it be? There shouldn't be such a creature. It was impossible for such a creature to exist. There mustn't be. There shouldn't be. Please let there not be.

Nevertheless, as the sound and the vibration continued to increase, their hopes were denied and their fear turned into certainty.

"..."

The sound ceased. And they saw "that" in their view.

"...!?"



Suddenly, five rugged pillars appeared, breaking through all the walls and barricades. Battering rams? No, they weren't. The pillars, which looked like they were made of rocks, bended the next moment, moving as if to remove and transport the materials of the destroyed walls and barricades. The scene outside became apparent from the large hole which was created.

"Wha...!?"

"Impossible..."

"You're kidding..."

They learned what the pillars were. The things which they thought were pillars turned out to be a part of something bigger. It was a part of a rock giant which was as tall as a mountain. The giant possessed an egg-shaped body which was so large that it could be mistaken as a building.

Furthermore, it had short legs and long arms. What they initially believed to be pillars were actually the giant's fingers.

The giant brought the materials of the walls and barricades near its head.

Then, a huge hole appeared where the giant dumped the materials in.

Following that, the giant chewed as if it was eating peanuts.

"Is... is it eating?"

A meal. Witnessing this event, they were stunned. After swallowing everything, the giant turned its head and extended its arm in their direction.

"Run! Everyone! Leave the building!"

Shimizu's shout rang across the floor. Finally, the employees came out of their daze and started moving.

"Nijou-san! Quickly!"

"Y-yes!"

Shimizu grabbed onto Nijou's hand and sprinted out. Fortunately, the giant wasn't targeting the two of them. They ran, ran, and ran. When she looked back, she saw that the giant was directly biting and devouring the building. The building, which was made of concrete, was losing its shape as if it was made of tofu.

"...What is... what is that..."

Unbelievable. Was that also a monster?

"UAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!"

They heard a scream from behind. It was likely the chiefs that remained in the upper floors. The giant continued to eat the building without minding.

(Impossible. Impossible. Impossible. Impossible. Impossible.)

Without realizing that they had left the building for the first time after three days, they kept running frantically.

"Senpai."

Only the face of a certain senior came to her mind. The building which they were at continued to collapse. She could only hear people screaming and the rock giant chewing.

"Kazuto-senpai..."

Help. She prayed desperately. In this world, hell had just begun.

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Chapter 93  
Source: Cipher  
Report

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The next day after the intense battle. In the morning of the fifth day, I woke up in the ruined school building.

"So it's morning already..."

I wake up while scratching my head. Irregularities... there are none.

"Enemy Detection" tells me that there aren't any monsters nor humans around us. All good. Looking to the side, Ichinose-san and Rikka-chan are still asleep. Just looking at them sleep, they look no different from regular girls their age.

"Don't sleep with your gun..."

Ichinose-san, who is sleeping peacefully, has her sniper rifle firmly on one arm. What's up with this former school girl who sleeps while hugging her gun? Misfire... shouldn't happen. The gun doesn't seem loaded anyways. Apparently, she can make bullets using a skill which consumes MP.

Looking closely, Rikka-chan hasn't let go of her hatchet either. Even though two beautiful girls sleeping while holding hands sounds like yuri, the things they're holding are too barbaric in comparison.

They're holding hands in order to share the effect of "Cognitive Impediment". I learned later on that the skill is active even during her sleep if Ichinose-san doesn't turn it off. As of now, Aka is weakened to the point where it can't mimic and camouflage all of us. For the sake of safety during the night, it was best to stick together and sleep.

What about me? Well, I slept with my hands on the hem of Ichinose-san's clothes. Clothing is recognized as part of the body, so there's no problem. I don't feel sorry for myself either. Putting Rikka-chan aside, Ichinose-san is a wall. There's no problem. (TN: Kind of confused. Is he saying that Ichinose-san is an airport runway?)

"Guess I don't have to wake them up just yet..."

After everything that has occurred yesterday, it's no wonder they're tired.

On the contrary, in terms of being fatigued, I'm supposed to be the most tired but...? Is it because of the potion that I received from Ichinose-san?

I'm very well.

"Wan!"

Noticing that I have woken up, Momo comes out from the shadow.

"Good morning, Momo."

"Kuuun."

Different from the two JKs that are sleeping in a barbaric manner, Momo is as cute as ever. As she licks my face, I also stroke her head and body. Oya? Is it just me, or is her fur better than before? This feeling is the best.

“Thank you for guarding us as well, Aka.”

“Furu furu.”

, I turn my attention to Aka who is shaking near Ichinose-san’s feet. Aka shakes as if to say Don’t mind it. Slimes do not require sleep. Even though Aka couldn’t mimic, it helped us by keeping watch through the night in case something abnormal happened. Really, Aka is a good child. When I pick up and hug Aka who has reduced its size, it feels really cool and nice. Hmm, I felt slightly reluctant in the beginning, but since I got used to the feeling, I’m beginning to believe that this may feel almost as good as Momo’s mofumofu.

Oh right.

Before the duo wakes up, I should distribute the points. From yesterday’s battle, my level rose by one and became level 18. I have 20 SP and 10 JP to use. What should I do... After a short period of contemplation, I first increase the level of “Ninja” to level 6 using JP. As a result of “Ninja” rising to level 6, the level of “Ninjutsu”, “Throwing”, “Enhanced Senses”, “Odorless”, “Silent Operation”, and “Concealment” goes up by one. I preserve the remaining 4 points of JP.

up, what should I do using the SP? Right. I raise “Active Physique” to level 5, “Ninjutsu” to level 8, and “Prediction” to level 3. All 20 of the SP have been allocated. The status looks something like this:

Kudou Kazuto

Level 18

HP: 190/190

MP: 45/45

Strength: 142

Endurance: 138

Agility: 318

Dexterity: 288

Magic: 25

Magic Resistance: 25

SP: 0

JP: 4

Professions

Ninja LV6

Hunter LV6

Shadow Master LV5

Unique Skills

Precocious

Profession Enhancement

Skill

Ninjutsu LV 8, Throwing LV 5, Enhanced Senses LV 5, Odorless LV 6, Silent Operation LV6, Concealment LV5, Night Vision LV4, Critical Aim LV5, Attention Cutoff LV7, Appraisal Interruption LV4, Enemy Detection LV7, Telephoto LV3, Agility Reinforcement LV7, Dexterity Reinforcement LV4,

Observation LV10, Listening Ear LV4, Shadow Manipulation LV5, Body Strengthening LV10, Active Physique LV5, Swordsmanship LV5, Stress Resistance LV9, Fear Resistance LV9, Poison Resistance LV1, Paralysis Resistance LV2, Virus Resistance LV1, Hear Resistance LV1, Aberration Resistance LV1, HP Auto Recovery LV1, Hostility Detection LV6, Crisis Detection LV9, Escape LV4, Defense Instinct LV1, Item Box LV10, Mail LV2, Concentration LV3, Prediction LV3, Negotiation LV1, Riding LV2

Party Members

Momo

Assassin Dog LV5

Aka

Fake Slime LV2

Ichinose Natsu

LV23

With “Ninjutsu” leveled up to 8, 2 more ninjutsus become available. How to use them appears on my mind. Hmmm... they’re quite interesting. Until now, most of the ninjutsu were geared towards running away, but these can be utilized in other forms. By using them alongside Aka’s abilities, infiltrating will become easier.

Putting the newfound abilities aside, everyone else also leveled up during the battle yesterday. I mean, Ichinose-san’s level is as high as usual... Level 23... that’s still 5 levels above me. Why doesn’t the difference remain even when I have the unique skill “Precocious”? Whatever, I should prioritize checking my skills.

Yesterday, I acquired the unique skill “Profession Enhancement” while going against the dark wolf. Its effect is likely the enhancement of skills that are related to the user’s professions. I need to analyze the skill in further details. Similar to “Precocious” which provides extra experience and points, I’m sure this unique skill is quite powerful. Also, what the monster tamer said yesterday lingers in my mind.

-I can strengthen those skills you know?

That was what she claimed. If that wasn’t a bluff, the skill should be capable of influencing fellow party members. That being the case, this skill would be a powerful tool which would help in surviving. When Ichinose-san wakes up, I should test it out.

“But then again, if they wake up, we would have to decide on what to do with Rikka-chan.”

Even after wracking my brain for the entire night, I don’t have an answer. What should I do? Currently, if Rikka-chan wants to return to Nishino-kun, I wouldn’t mind doing that, but if she wants to stay with Ichinose-san, am I to party up with her? To be honest, she might be a close friend of Ichinose-san, but she isn’t that important to me. It’s the truth that I don’t want her to die, but it’s not like I could trust her with my back during a fight either. The very fact that I’m thinking about this proves that I don’t have faith in her. The world is like this already. No one is there to judge whether one choice

is better than the other. Just yesterday, I made many mistakes and hesitated over several subjects.

"Momo, what do you think?"

"Wafu?"

I ask Momo who is lying on top of my lap. What should we do about Rikka-chan?

"Wan."

Momo thinks about it for some time before replying, I'll leave it up to you.

"How about you, Aka?"

"Furu furu."

Aka shakes, saying I'll leave it up to you as well.

I see, both of you are leaving it up to me. In the end, what is it that I should do?

"Hmm...mmmm... huh? Kazuto-san?"

I hear Ichinose-san behind me. She must have woken up.

"Good morning. Did you sleep well?"

"...Yes. Fuaaa....niyuu..."

Yeah, she appears to be still sleepy. Even so, she is still holding onto her gun, which leaves a peculiar taste.

"...N? Huh? I..."

Following that, Rikka-chan wakes up. As if she is confused about what's happening, she looks around until her eyes open wide upon seeing the figure of Ichinose-san who is in a dazed state.

"Natsun? Eh? Seriously? That wasn't a dream? I'm alive...?"

I can't believe it, Rikka-chan mutters. I see, from how she was yesterday, it isn't strange to think that it was a dream. After all, she was so injured that she fainted right afterwards.

"Ah, Ricchan, good -"

"Natsun...NATSUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUN!!!"

"Mugiii!?"

Rikka-chan hugs Ichinose-san with great ferocity. Oh, Ichinose-san's face is buried in her chest!

"Good...good... it wasn't a dream... it really wasn't a dream..."

"....!!"

I'm sorry for interrupting your emotional reunion (version 2), but can you avoid hugging her too tightly? Ichinose-san is suffocating. You see, she's a former Hiki Komori, so her status is in the singles digit.

You know what, screw it. Since they're both awake, let's discuss what to do while eating.

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Chapter 94

Source: Cipher

Report

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I take the breakfast, which consists of bread and canned food, from the backpack. For now, I hide the existence of the Item Box. That's precisely why I bring along the backpack anyway. There's already that event which happened near the home center, so it's better to avoid being suspected. Momo is hiding in the shadow while Aka is mimicking.

I judged that it would be best to hide them as well. After all, owning a dog which could use skills and a slime which could mimic might make her wary of us. This is especially true with what happened with the monster tamer.

"Breakfast..."

Seeing the bread and canned food, Rikka-chan's stomach growls. Her cheeks burn red. She must be famished. She then turns towards me, making an expression which seems to ask, Who is this? From her perspective, I must be someone she's not yet familiar with.

"Hello and good morning. I'm getting the food ready, so please wait a moment."

"Eh? Okay...?"

Rikka-chan stands up while having a question mark floating on top of her head. While she is doing so, Ichinose-san wakes up from her stunned state.

"Huh? Where am I?"

"Good morning, Ichinose-san."

"Ah, yes, Ka... Good morning, Kudou-san."

Well, this is the second time though. Let's not remind her about her near death experience just now.

"Eh? Natsun's acquaintance?"

"Ah, good morning to you as well, Ricchan. How are your injuries?"

"Eh, ah.... Un."

"That's good."

Ignoring Rikka-chan's confused look, Ichinose-san pats her nonexistent chest in relief. Looking here and there, Ichinose-san's eyes land on mine. She must have realized that Momo and Aka aren't present.

(Please keep them a secret for now.)

(I understand.)

We communicate through eye contact. I've told her about this before as well. She must have understood why I'm hiding them. Finishing the preparations for breakfast, I take a seat.

"Here. Please have some."

Rikka-chan goes silent for a while before reaching out for her food upon seeing Ichinose-san eat.

"! This is delicious..."

Rikka-chan begins to eat faster. She must have been quite hungry. Later on, she tells me that she has not eaten proper food for the past 5 days. With tears in her eyes, she devours the bread and canned peaches.

"I have extras. Do you want them?"

"That!" (nod nod)

She calms down after taking a break and drinking the after-meal coffee that I brewed. Caressing her stomach, she appears satisfied.

"Ah, that was amazing! Thanks for the food!"

Where did your initial wariness fly off to? By the time she finishes her food, Rikka-chan is smiling happily. Now then, we are finally ready to have a proper conversation. I explain the situation to Rikka-chan. About how Ichinose-san was my companion and about how we arrived here. I might have been suspected if I was alone, but with Ichinose-san besides me, things were better. In fact, Rikka-chan believes my word completely. I blur out the details about the Item Box, Momo, and Aka.

"I see. Natsun must have had it rough as well..."

"Yes. But I had Kudou-san with me, so I was okay... but it must have been difficult for you."

"Well, kind of. I'm separated from Nisshi, and I have no idea where Shibachi and Ono are."

Rikka-chan also told us how they came here. She talked about being attacked by the high orc, being saved by an unknown individual (me), meeting with Ishikawa-san and the monster tamer, and arriving at the school. Her explanation was easy to picture. Is her original communication skill helping her out with the explanation? I'm jealous. If it was Ichinose-san, she would have definitely fallen ill or bitten her tongue in the middle of her story.

"I see... so, what will Aisaka-san be doing from now on?"

"What will I be doing?"

"You have companions right? Are you going to look for them?"

"Well, yes, I guess... but... I don't know where they are or how to communicate with them..."

Indeed, the world right now is inconvenient because we do not have access to phones or the internet. Even so, skills can be used as substitutes.

"In that case, I have a solution. If you look at the list of skills you can acquire, do you have something called 'Mail' available?"

"M-mail?"

Rikka-chan checks her status table while tilting her head.

"Oh, there really is something called 'Mail' here."

"It's a skill which allows you to contact people in remote locations. If the recipient doesn't have this skill, the conversation would only proceed one way. However, as long as the recipient also possesses the skill, communicating with each other possible."

"Hee.... But why do I have this?"

"Yesterday, you should have received a mail from Ichinose-san. Once you receive a mail from someone, it becomes possible to obtain."

"Ah, now that you mention it... So that was Natsun. Thank you, Natsun."

"Un."

"Do you have spare SP? Just 1 point is needed to activate it."

"I have them. I gained two levels from yesterday."

Rikka-chan operates the status plate quickly and taps on the screen.  
“Wow, this is amazing. There’s even an address book. This really is similar to a smartphone. Natsun and onii-san’s names are on there. Ah, I see Nisshi’s as well. Hey, Natsun, can I send you a message as a test?”

“Uh, yeah...”

Rikka-chan seems happy about the new skill as she exchanges mails with Ichinose-san. I also wanted to exchange mails like this. Receiving 47 mails nonstop. That was really an unpleasant situation.

“This skill is really useful. Hey, onii-san, can I send you messages as well?”

“Yes, I don’t mind.”

So Rikka-chan will address me as onii-san? Hmmm, there’s something about being called onii-san by a high school girl with big breasts. Fufu. Even the announcement which says “You have received a mail” sounds pleasing. I feel like my trauma is being purified...

“Kudou-san, what are you thinking right now?”

“That...”

I feel a chill running across my back. I turn around to see Ichinose-san staring at me with half her eyes open.

“Nothing. Now, you should have finished testing out the skill. If you use this, don’t you think you can unite with Nishino-kun and the others?”

“Yes, that’s right, but...”

Rikka-chan looks at Ichinose-san.

“Hey, what are you going to do now?”

“Eh? Me? Uh... I... Hot!”

Due to suddenly changing the topic of our discussion, Ichinose-san spills her coffee. Because of her inability to communicate, it isn’t rare for her to panic when the subject of the discussion shifts abruptly.

“Are you okay? So you haven’t fixed that habit of yours.”

“It’s not so easy to fix! I can only speak normally to Ricchan and Kudou-san...”

“Kudou-san, is it...hmmm”

While wiping the coffee, Ichinose-san looks at me.

“Kudou-san... what will we do now?”

“About that... I was thinking of going to the central market or the agricultural cooperative as originally planned.”

Coming to the school was just a side trip, so we should now start to secure supplies and search for a safe base. I don’t know if there is anywhere safe in this world filled with monsters, but it’s too early to give up without trying. There may be places similar to a “Safety Zone”.

“Then, then-”

“Let’s bring along Aisaka-san?”

I finish what Ichinose-san plans to say. Ichinose-san nods. Rikka-chan’s expression also becomes brighter. She should be worried about Nishino-kun, but as I thought, she wants to be with Ichinose-san.

“It’s okay if it’s Ricchan... I guarantee it.”



Ichinose-san says so before bowing her head. I guess she trust her very much. She stares at me with sincere eyes. After a while of staring, I sigh deeply.

"... Okay. If you're willing to say that much...Is this okay for you guys?"

When I ask, my shadow and my hood trembles. They both seem to give their consent.

"Onii-san, who are you talking to?"

"Aisaka-san, I've kept this a secret from you, but we still have other companions."

"Is, is that so?"

"Yes, I'll introduce them to you now. However, please don't attack them in surprise."

"...?"

Rikka-chan doesn't understand what I'm saying and tilts her head.

"Momo, Aka, come out."

The shadow near my feet spreads open while the hood of my clothes changes shape. Momo and Aka appear.

"Wan!"

"Furu Furu."

Rikka-chan's eyes opens wide at the two's sudden appearance.

"What is this cute doggy? And did she just come out of your feet? ... And, uh, a slime? What?"

Umu, this child's reactions are always so exaggerated. Leaving that aside, thank you for the shaking. I won't say what's shaking, but thank you regardless.

"I'll be introducing them to you. This dog is Momo, and the slime is Aka. They're our precious companions."

"Companions? The doggy aside, is the slime also your friend?"

"Yes. Both Aka and Momo are our companions."

Rikka-chan's mouth opens wide in surprise.

"Ha, haha, this is surprising in various aspects... Natsun's friends are amazing..."

"Un, I think so too."

Ichinose-san smiles bitterly while stroking Momo. Rikka-chan also strokes Momo and touches Aka.

"So soft...! This is bad... the doggy is too cute~!"

Apparently, she seems to accept them despite her shock. She hugs Aka tightly and enjoys the feeling. Purunpurun. Pyonpyon... Thank you for the meal.

"Well then, Aisaka-san. Please message Nishino-kun. Also, please tell us about your skills and lev~"

"Hm? What's wrong, Kudou-san? Ah? Momo-chan?"

Responding to my movement, Momo leaps off from Ichinose-san's lap and runs up to me.

"'Enemy Detection' is reacting. There's a monster nearby."

When I say so, the tension suddenly rises. Ichinose-san grabs her gun silently while Aka and Momo enters combat mode. Rikka-chan also readies her weapon.

“Please stay where you are for now. I’ll go check.”

The reaction isn’t coming from within the building, but rather from outside. Since the sun has risen, monsters should have become more active. But... why do I feel uneasy? Its presence feels strange for a monster. However, at the same time, I’m sure it’s not a human... what is it? From the opening of a wall, I carefully look outside.

“What... is that?”

My eyes become round upon witnessing the scene.

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Chapter 95

Source: Nobles

Report

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527 If you are seeing this text you are reading527 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content527 !

What’s there is a giant rat. A rat that is as large as cats is moving about with a rustle. If regular rats are to be enlarged, they would look like this one.

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“Uwah... gross.”

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My thoughts accidentally leak out of my mouth. Seeing the enlarged figure of an animal that I have seen countless times before is more eerie than I expected. This is my first time encountering such a creature. Does it count as a monster? No... it feels somewhat different. Its presence is similar to that of Momo’s. An existence that is neither a monster nor a regular animal.

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“Ah, perhaps...”

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Arriving at a certain thought, I feel amazed. Perhaps the rat is an animal that defeated monsters and consumed their magic stones, just like Momo.

Since there is a precedence in the form of Momo, this premise is not unfounded.

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Because we have only been dealing with monsters, I forgot about such possibilities. It isn't strange is there are animals like Momo that hunt monsters, raise their levels, and eat magic stones to gain skills. Also, there are a lot of magic stones lying around in the city from fallen monsters. Some animals might have eaten the magic stones that were left untouched.

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Is the rat also like that? The rat is keeping its nose down and watching out its surrounding. It is highly likely that it has some skill. In a sense, animals might be better than humans at survival. After all, living in the wild, animals should be used to being attacked by others stronger than themselves. Now, what to do...

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"What happened, Kudou-san? What is it?"

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Ichinose-san opens her mouth, likely worried about my silence.

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"Ah, sorry about that. I was thinking about something... the creature was not a monster, but rather a gigantic rat."

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"Rat...?"

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"Yes, but it's not a regular rat. It's a rat which has strengthened itself through devouring magic stones."

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"...!"

3347 If you are seeing this text you are reading3347 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content3347 !

“Eh? What’s that? What do you mean? What’s a magic stone anyway?”

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I can hear Ichinose-san taking in a deep breath. On the other hand, Rikka-chan doesn’t seem to get what I’m saying.

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“A magic stone is a stone which falls after a monster is defeated. When other creatures eat it, their bodies become stronger and they obtain the defeated monster’s skill.”

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“Legit? I mean, I did see stones falling after the monsters were killed, but to think they were such amazing stuff.”

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Well, it’s reasonable that she didn’t know until now. In the first place, I wouldn’t have known this either if I didn’t have the Item Box’s list function along with Aka and Momo.

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“Should we hunt it down?”

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“Indeed...”

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I contemplate at this point. Our opponent this time isn’t a monster. While it’s big, it’s still a normal animal. Yet...

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“There is a possibility that it carries pathogens. Also, there is a chance that it’s aggressive towards humans... It’s better to slay it... Momo.”

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“Wan!”

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Along with my signal, Momo extends her shadow towards the rat. Rikka-chan raises her voice in surprise.

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“What?! The shadow is stretching? How come?”

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“It’s one of Momo’s skill. There isn’t any danger to this, so please be quiet.”

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“Ah, okay... amazing...”

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During our exchange, the shadow approaches the rat. Good, let’s restrain it and kill it at once.

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“Chii!?”

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However, the rat notices Momo’s shadow before it arrives. And then with astonishing agility, it avoids the shadow.

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“What!?”

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Watching its movement, I exclaim out loud in astonishment. You’re kidding? What a speed. To avoid Momo’s shadow, it requires the speed of a lesser... no, a shadow wolf.

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“Chichichi!”

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Furthermore, it is avoiding Momo’s shadow by running horizontally on the wall. That has to be a skill. Also, it should possess some sort of a detection skill. I’m not certain whether it’s “Crisis Detection” or “Hostility Detection”, but unless it possesses such a skill, it isn’t possible to dodge Momo’s shadow like that a second before it hits.

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“Chichi!! Chu!”

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Shaking off the shadow, the rat runs away. In the blink of an eye, it disappears from our sight.

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“So it ran away...”

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“Kuuu...”

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Momo’s voice expresses regret.

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“It’s okay, Momo. Our side didn’t receive any damage, so I don’t mind.”

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I stroke Momo’s head. The fact that it escaped probably means that its combat ability is not so high. Also, “Crisis Detection” didn’t show any intense reaction. Its strength should be below that of a goblin’s. Perhaps its enhancement is geared towards agility or means of escape. I mean, I’ll be troubled otherwise.

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“I don’t sense any other thing around us. We should be fine now.”

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Having heard that, the two puts their guards down. Still, animals enhanced with magic stones huh? This is troubling... Monsters are a threat, but this could become the source of another threat. Stray cats and dogs. Crows. There are many animals in the city and 5 days have already passed. Enhanced animals like Momo and that rat would keep increasing in number. What if bears, boars, and poisonous snakes from the forests were strengthened? If animals that initially possessed outstanding physiques get even more powerful, how are they different from the monsters? One more thing to worry about...

11957 If you are seeing this text you are reading11957 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content11957 !

“Even so... magic stones.”

11415 If you are seeing this text you are reading11415 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content11415 !

By eating them, monsters and animals can strengthen their bodies and gain skills. But... is this the only way to use them? Or are there other uses that we haven’t found yet? In games, they’re standard items used to power up weapons and abilities.

18487 If you are seeing this text you are reading18487 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content18487 !

On a different note, why can animals eat magic stones while we can’t? Oh, how I want to have “Appraisal”. While mofu-ing Momo, I wonder how I can obtain the “Appraisal” skill.

6943 If you are seeing this text you are reading6943 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content6943 !

Meanwhile

18990 If you are seeing this text you are reading18990 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content18990 !

Scary. Scary. Scary.

16870 If you are seeing this text you are reading16870 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content16870 !

The rat was running desperately. Suddenly, something black had assaulted it. He knew right away that it was something dangerous. Hence, it ran away. It escaped with its life on the line. It was a mistake to come above the ground on a whim.

19618 If you are seeing this text you are reading19618 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content19618 !

It had swallowed a peculiar stone, making it bigger and obtaining some strange power. It felt as if it could do anything. But that was an illusion. There was always someone better and stronger, so it didn't want to experience painful memories. It decided to live carefully underground like before. Thinking so, the rat ran.

14315 If you are seeing this text you are reading14315 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content14315 !

"Chichichi."

7710 If you are seeing this text you are reading7710 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content7710 !

The hole which it crawled out from appeared in its view. A little bit more. A little bit more, and it would return to its dwelling. The rat relaxed momentarily from relief. However, that created a fatal opening.

2153 If you are seeing this text you are reading2153 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content2153 !

"Chi!?"

16498 If you are seeing this text you are reading16498 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content16498 !

At once, its movement stopped. Rather, it was forced to stop. Why couldn't it move? The more it struggled and tried to move, the more restricted it felt. The rat finally noticed "that" which was tangling its body. It was a myriad number of threads.

779 If you are seeing this text you are reading779 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content779 !

"Chichi!? Chichichichichi!"

11919 If you are seeing this text you are reading11919 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content11919 !

As it looked around, it noticed that the threads were covering various parts of the surrounding. And then it appeared before the rat's eyes. From the hole where the rat tried to return to, a spider emerged, letting out eerie sounds.



6126 If you are seeing this text you are reading6126 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content6126 !

“....tsu..”

12012 If you are seeing this text you are reading12012 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content12012 !

The rat’s instinct was raising an alarm at maximum volume. Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary. Scary. Don’t want to die. Don’t want to die. Don’t want to die. But it was too late. The predator was right before its eyes. It wielded sharp claws and fangs. The rat could see countless bones scattered inside the hole. That was the last that the rat ever saw.

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Chapter 96

Source: Cipher

Report

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10116 If you are seeing this text you are reading10116 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content10116 !

Alright. Although the things that I should be wary of increased by one, I’ll just tackle what’s in front of me one by one. First of all, it’s about the mail to Nishino-kun.

10143 If you are seeing this text you are reading10143 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content10143 !

“Before anything else, you should tell Nishino-kun that you’re safe.”

4010 If you are seeing this text you are reading4010 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content4010 !

“Yes, yes. Understood.”

2244 If you are seeing this text you are reading2244 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content2244 !

Pochipochi. Rikka-chan quickly taps around on the mail screen. As expected of a popular JK. Her typing speed is fast.

2992 If you are seeing this text you are reading2992 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content2992 !

“Also, please include details about the ‘Mail’ skill, how to obtain the skill, and your current situation.”

19493 If you are seeing this text you are reading19493 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content19493 !

“Kudou-san, isn’t it better for her to also talk about magic stones and wild animals?”

8041 If you are seeing this text you are reading8041 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content8041 !

“Oh, you’re right.”

19505 If you are seeing this text you are reading19505 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content19505 !

“Okay, okay. Wait a minute. Don’t say it all at once. I’ll type them right now...”

3237 If you are seeing this text you are reading3237 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content3237 !

After finishing her mail, she sends the text to Ichinose-san instead of Nishino-kun. Just like the status screen, the mail screen is invisible to others. There isn’t a way to confirm the content of the mail unless it is read out loud or sent to another party.

647 If you are seeing this text you are reading647 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content647 !

“Yes. This should do...”

16752 If you are seeing this text you are reading16752 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content16752 !

Since Ichinose-san, the oni of mails, has given her approval, the mail is sent to Nishino-kun.

3885 If you are seeing this text you are reading3885 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content3885 !

“I’m worried about whether he’ll believe my words. Despite how he looks, he is quite cautious...”

3004 If you are seeing this text you are reading3004 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content3004 !

Rikka-chan who is sending the mail appears to be anxious.

1972 If you are seeing this text you are reading1972 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content1972 !

“It’s probably safe. Nishino-kun saw Aisaka-san receive your first mail back in the cafeteria. If you put some information that only you and Nishino-kun share, he will believe you.”

12619 If you are seeing this text you are reading12619 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content12619 !

On the other hand, he might be suspicious of whether or not this is a trap, but since it is Nishino-kun, it should be alright. He seems to have a realistic worldview, yet he has a side to him that cares for his friends. Furthermore, Rikka-chan is a powerhouse among Nishino-kun and his group, so they wouldn't want to abandon her. As such, they are likely to contact us.

15902 If you are seeing this text you are reading15902 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content15902 !

I'm more concerned about how one can't get his or her hand on "Mail" unless you have a spare Skill Point. I hope Nishino-kun has an extra point...

16908 If you are seeing this text you are reading16908 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content16908 !

"Well then, we should move. I don't want us to stay here for too long."

12179 If you are seeing this text you are reading12179 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content12179 !

"Wan!"

1648 If you are seeing this text you are reading1648 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content1648 !

"I agree."

3195 If you are seeing this text you are reading3195 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content3195 !

Momo nods while Ichinose-san stands up.

214 If you are seeing this text you are reading214 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content214 !

"Eh? Aren't we waiting until we receive a reply?"

2391 If you are seeing this text you are reading2391 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content2391 !

In contrast, Rikka-chan tilts her head in confusion.

11021 If you are seeing this text you are reading11021 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content11021 !

"As I mentioned earlier, it's dangerous to stay here since we don't know when the monsters will return."

2466 If you are seeing this text you are reading2466 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content2466 !

To be precise, I'm talking about the dark wolf. For us, goblins, zombies, and orcs won't pose a threat even if they came in groups. Even so, the dark wolf is another story. If he changes his mind and attacks us again, we'll be out of options.

18142 If you are seeing this text you are reading18142 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content18142 !

However, personally, I don't think this is likely to occur. If it wanted us dead, it would've done so from the beginning without giving us a night to recover. It is still unknown why it spared us. Unlike that time with the high orc, the dark wolf's situation was never disadvantageous, not to mention how it looked like it had a lot of stamina to spare. Was it just its whim, or was there another "reason"...

2397 If you are seeing this text you are reading2397 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content2397 !

"..."

1817 If you are seeing this text you are reading1817 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content1817 !

I take a glance at Momo. Momo, noticing my gaze, approaches my feet. How cute. Let's mofu-mofu. There should be some connection between why I was spared and why Momo was not taken away. There is something about Momo. Something which would attract the dark wolf's attention.

7694 If you are seeing this text you are reading7694 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content7694 !

"..."

13968 If you are seeing this text you are reading13968 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content13968 !

Don't mess with me. Who would hand Momo over to a monster like that? This time, I will definitely protect Momo. That's why my plan from now is simple. Before we meet it again, I'll level up and get stronger. That's all there is to it. I steel my heart while stroking Momo.

12908 If you are seeing this text you are reading12908 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content12908 !

"Oh, right. I want to check one thing before we start moving."

19782 If you are seeing this text you are reading19782 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content19782 !

"W-what?"

2024 If you are seeing this text you are reading2024 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content2024 !

Having been called out, Rikka-chan turns to me.

5784 If you are seeing this text you are reading5784 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content5784 !

“If it’s alright with you, could you tell us about your level, occupation, and skills? Even though it’s temporary, it would be easier if we know each other’s abilities.”

5273 If you are seeing this text you are reading5273 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content5273 !

“Certainly, I’m curious about Ricchan’s occupation.”

2090 If you are seeing this text you are reading2090 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content2090 !

“Well, uh... that’s right.”

365 If you are seeing this text you are reading365 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content365 !

For some reason, Rikka-chan looks slightly bitter.

13519 If you are seeing this text you are reading13519 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content13519 !

“I chose ‘Berserker’ as my first occupation. I have a skilled called ‘Berserk’, which, upon activation, makes me very powerful during combat.”

8251 If you are seeing this text you are reading8251 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content8251 !

As I predicted.

7357 If you are seeing this text you are reading7357 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content7357 !

“My level is 12. Aside from ‘Berserk’, I have ‘Ferocity’, ‘Continuous Battle’, ‘Regeneration’, ‘Strengthened Slash’, ‘Strengthened Strike’, and...”

5104 If you are seeing this text you are reading5104 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content5104 !

“And?”

19276 If you are seeing this text you are reading19276 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content19276 !

“Um... and the ‘Mail’ that I just got. That’s it.”

1739 If you are seeing this text you are reading1739 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content1739 !

I see. It's a skill set which fits a "Berserker". So her abnormal speed of healing is thanks to "Regeneration". How convenient. I want it too.

19908 If you are seeing this text you are reading19908 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content19908 !

"So what kind of occupation did Natsun choose? Since she has a gun, is a 'Sniper'?"

14952 If you are seeing this text you are reading14952 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content14952 !

"Oh... it's something different. Ricchan, the first occupation I chose was..."

694 If you are seeing this text you are reading694 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content694 !

Unwillingly, Ichinose-san describes her occupation, skills, and level. When she hears about the "Hiki Komori" occupation, Rikka-chan's face becomes complicated. "It's my fault", she says. "I don't mind anymore", replies Ichinose-san. "Un. Thank you", says Rikka-chan in response. They're communicating about something I don't understand. (TN: Protagonist doesn't know about their history yet.)

14263 If you are seeing this text you are reading14263 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content14263 !

I'm curious, but it isn't something I should poke my head into. I won't ask anything. If they want to talk about it, then I'll be there to listen. Ichinose-san furthermore speaks about the new occupations and skills that she acquired from the "Gatcha" skill. It's a really good skill that can compensate for the weakness of a "Hiki Komori" and a "Sniper". After all, I feel like Ichinose-san's luck with the "Gatcha" is extremely good. She can get her second and third occupation without having the need to max their levels out like I do. I'm starting to think that there should be a skill called "Luck".

17037 If you are seeing this text you are reading17037 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content17037 !

Rikka-chan expresses her shock when she hears about Ichinose-san's level. Well, it's true that she's at level 23. It's almost twice as high compared to Rikka-chan. Rikka-chan's impression was "Natsun is dope...".

18719 If you are seeing this text you are reading18719 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content18719 !

I also notified Rikka-chan about things that I wouldn't mind her knowing. Things such as my level, my occupation of "Ninja" and "Shadow Master", and my skills. With this, I can attack using Item Box, all the while claiming

that it's a "Ninjutsu". I've already told Ichinose-san about this, so she would match my words as well. I'm doing this because I don't trust her completely yet. Furthermore, I tell her about the skills of Momo and Aka. Rikka-chan's impression of Aka's ability was "This slime is dope..."

1023 If you are seeing this text you are reading1023 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content1023 !

"With all that out of the way, please take care of me throughout this journey."

8623 If you are seeing this text you are reading8623 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content8623 !

"Likewise, onii-san."

9568 If you are seeing this text you are reading9568 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content9568 !

We shake each other's hands. By the way, Rikka-chan is not counted as our team member because she is already partied up with Nishino-kun. If she was honest, she would probably want to be with Ichinose-san, but it's better to decide on this after we meet up with Nishino-kun. It's not like we know how to leave a party anyways. Now, let's start moving. We leave the building from the tattered entrance.

7733 If you are seeing this text you are reading7733 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content7733 !

"Looking at it again, it truly is a horrible sight."

11050 If you are seeing this text you are reading11050 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content11050 !

Rikka-chan's thoughts leak out of her mouth. Everything inside the school building has been destroyed, and the outside doesn't look much better. Tents that have been installed in the school yard have been demolished, and corpses are littered on the floor, with crows swarming around them. The stench of blood permeates the air. Although I've gotten used to it to some degree during the past 4 days, it's not a pleasant scene.

5582 If you are seeing this text you are reading5582 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content5582 !

(The bodies can't be stored in the Item Box either...)

14801 If you are seeing this text you are reading14801 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content14801 !

For some unknown reason, creatures, living or dead, could not enter the Item Box. Is it because corpses are regarded not as "Objects" but

“Entities”? Or is it because the standard of the Heavenly Voice is different? Whichever it is, corpses cannot go in the Item Box.

3691 If you are seeing this text you are reading3691 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content3691 !

Because of the risks involved in bacteria spreading, I would like to cremate them, but it would take a lot of energy and time to do so for each of them. For now, we cannot afford to do so. I simply reply with a “Yes” before leaving the school.

3482 If you are seeing this text you are reading3482 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content3482 !

However, during these moments, I failed to notice Rikka-chan eyeing the dead bodies. Besides the feeling of sadness and pity, there was something else mixed in.

4351 If you are seeing this text you are reading4351 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content4351 !

(I... lied...)

13976 If you are seeing this text you are reading13976 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content13976 !

Rikka sighed in her heart. No, she didn’t really lie. To be precise, she just omitted it. The skills in her arsenal were not limited to what she had told. At the bottom of her skill screen, there was another skill.

18434 If you are seeing this text you are reading18434 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content18434 !

– Kindred Killer.

10978 If you are seeing this text you are reading10978 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content10978 !

She just couldn’t get herself to talk about this skill.

2207 If you are seeing this text you are reading2207 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content2207 !

(It’s obvious why I can’t say it...)

8066 If you are seeing this text you are reading8066 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content8066 !

She finally reunited with her best friend. How was it possible for her to confess that she possessed such an abominable skill?

349 If you are seeing this text you are reading349 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content349 !

(Sorry, Natsun. But this time... I’ll be sure to protect you.)



17627 If you are seeing this text you are reading17627 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content17627 !

She had reunited. She was delighted. Nevertheless, there was still darkness within Rikka's heart.

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Chapter 97

Source: Cipher

Report

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8527 If you are seeing this text you are reading8527 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content8527 !

We are exploring the streets after leaving the school. Although the number of people in our group has increased, what we have to do didn't change. Leveling up and acquiring supplies. Not only am I talking about food, I'm also talking about heavy machinery and scrap cars that could be used against monsters.

11300 If you are seeing this text you are reading11300 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content11300 !

(Because I used up a lot of them in the fight against the dark wolf yesterday)

8889 If you are seeing this text you are reading8889 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content8889 !

If it was against normal monsters, I could reuse them after picking them up, but I can't do that when the dark wolf swallows them with its "darkness".

Thanks to that, the massive number of bullets has hit rock bottom. It can be said that the wolf is the nemesis of the Item Box. It can also see through stealth with its sensitive nose. The wolf is becoming trickier to fight against.

12161 If you are seeing this text you are reading12161 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content12161 !

While Ichinose was resting, I had already collected some boulders and heavy looking objects from the surrounding, but I don't feel at ease. Power in quantity. I want to be well prepared in case we meet against a large army of monsters. That being the case, while we're walking, I pick up scrap cars, vending machines, and fallen telephone poles when Rikka-chan isn't watching.

8984 If you are seeing this text you are reading8984 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content8984 !

“Oh?”

6091 If you are seeing this text you are reading6091 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content6091 !

While moving in such a manner, something in front of me catches my eyes. It's a giant tree which has grown through houses. Ever since the world has become crazy, they have been growing everywhere.

12365 If you are seeing this text you are reading12365 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content12365 !

“Doesn't it feel like this tree... has become even larger?”

6798 If you are seeing this text you are reading6798 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content6798 !

“Now that you mention it, yes.”

17159 If you are seeing this text you are reading17159 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content17159 !

Ichinose-san nods at my words. To begin with, it was a huge tree that was dozens of meters long, but its trunk has become thicker.

18535 If you are seeing this text you are reading18535 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content18535 !

(I've been paying a lot of attention to the monsters, but these trees are a mystery...)

415 If you are seeing this text you are reading415 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content415 !

The day monsters began appearing, these trees appeared as well. They're growing everywhere around the city, and they're getting bigger. What are these trees?

16595 If you are seeing this text you are reading16595 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content16595 !

“...but it's strange”

17777 If you are seeing this text you are reading17777 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content17777 !

“What is?”

10202 If you are seeing this text you are reading10202 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content10202 !

Ichinose-san traces the tree trunk.

738 If you are seeing this text you are reading738 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content738 !

“It’s such a big and unusual plant, so our attention should be easily attracted to it... but if we don’t stop by deliberately to observe, we don’t pay much mind to it...”

11582 If you are seeing this text you are reading11582 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content11582 !

“Ah, you’re right.”

11114 If you are seeing this text you are reading11114 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content11114 !

Rikka-chan agrees to Ichinose-san’s statement. I agree as well. I didn’t even care about them. They did block my path and get in my way, but I didn’t both thinking in depth about their existence. However, now that I think about it, it’s really strange. Monsters are abnormal, but it’s the same with these trees. I wonder about monster a lot of the times, but why isn’t this the case with these trees? It’s as if they’re purposely making me think this way.

2843 If you are seeing this text you are reading2843 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content2843 !

(...Maybe)

2211 If you are seeing this text you are reading2211 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content2211 !

Do these trees also possess some type of skill? A skill which moves other people’s attention away from themselves, just like Ichinose-san’s “Cognitive Impediment”... There’s certainly a possibility. Since animals and insects also have levels and skills, there’s no reason for plants to not have them too. Not to mention the fact that these trees appeared along with the monsters. We can’t expect them to be normal.

9906 If you are seeing this text you are reading9906 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content9906 !

Wait a minute. Then if we cut down these trees, do we get experience?

18671 If you are seeing this text you are reading18671 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content18671 !

“...”

4238 If you are seeing this text you are reading4238 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content4238 !

For a moment, I feel the urge to try it out. However, to cut down a tree of this size is quite the hassle. By spending time with a chainsaw, it’s possible to do so, but the sound might attract the attention of unwanted monsters. It’s more efficient to simply hunt monsters by detecting them. Furthermore,

the moment I thought about cutting down the trees, I felt something unpleasant. And that feeling was at a “dangerous” level.

4071 If you are seeing this text you are reading4071 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content4071 !

Perhaps they have skills that are used to counterattack. If they’re something that would become aggressive only when they’re attacked, it will be wise of us to not lay a finger to them.

1450 If you are seeing this text you are reading1450 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content1450 !

“What should we do? Should we try cutting it as an experiment?”

17389 If you are seeing this text you are reading17389 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content17389 !

Thinking so far, I return to reality. Rikka-chan is approaching the tree with a hatchet on her hand. I stop her in a hurry.

12720 If you are seeing this text you are reading12720 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content12720 !

“Let’s not. I don’t think anything would come out of cutting it a bit. Rather than that, ‘Enemy Detection’ has reacted. We should head over there.”

4644 If you are seeing this text you are reading4644 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content4644 !

“A monster?”

19247 If you are seeing this text you are reading19247 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content19247 !

“Yes, probably goblins. There are four of them, one of which appears to be a hobgoblin.”

14364 If you are seeing this text you are reading14364 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content14364 !

Hearing this, the two show faces of alert. We head towards the direction which “Enemy Detection” has indicated. The moment our consciousness moves from the tree to the monster–

15245 If you are seeing this text you are reading15245 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content15245 !

“Hmm?”

14889 If you are seeing this text you are reading14889 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content14889 !

“What’s wrong?”

8267 If you are seeing this text you are reading8267 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content8267 !

“No, I just felt something strange...”

8483 If you are seeing this text you are reading8483 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content8483 !

“Strange?”

16195 If you are seeing this text you are reading16195 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content16195 !

What is this...? I think I was thinking about something, but I wonder what it was? I can't seem to remember. What was it that I was wondering about?

3782 If you are seeing this text you are reading3782 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content3782 !

“No, it's nothing...”

16709 If you are seeing this text you are reading16709 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content16709 !

Since I forgot about it, it shouldn't be anything important. The tree rustles behind us. While listening to the sound, we leave the area.

15062 If you are seeing this text you are reading15062 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content15062 !

We discover three goblins and one hobgoblin. They're leaning on the wall and stretching.

4246 If you are seeing this text you are reading4246 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content4246 !

“I'll snipe.”

3165 If you are seeing this text you are reading3165 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content3165 !

“Yes.”

9297 If you are seeing this text you are reading9297 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content9297 !

“I'll do my best.”

18796 If you are seeing this text you are reading18796 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content18796 !

Ichinose-san holds her gun while Rikka-chan holds her hatchet.

4135 If you are seeing this text you are reading4135 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content4135 !

“Ichinose-san is responsible for covering us. Aisaka-san is to follow behind me.”

19646 If you are seeing this text you are reading19646 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content19646 !

“Understood.”

7968 If you are seeing this text you are reading7968 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content7968 !

“Ooookay.”

6632 If you are seeing this text you are reading6632 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content6632 !

, I look at Momo and Aka.

11211 If you are seeing this text you are reading11211 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content11211 !

“Wan!”

18890 If you are seeing this text you are reading18890 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content18890 !

“Furu furu.”

14860 If you are seeing this text you are reading14860 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content14860 !

Both seem to be in high spirits.

15958 If you are seeing this text you are reading15958 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content15958 !

“Go!”

13897 If you are seeing this text you are reading13897 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content13897 !

The moment Aka turns into a weapon and Momo dives into my shadow, I start dashing. I hear Ichinose-san pulling the trigger at the same time. With the sound of gunshot, one of the goblin’s head explodes.

11957 If you are seeing this text you are reading11957 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content11957 !

“Gyiiiii!?”

19080 If you are seeing this text you are reading19080 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content19080 !

“Giyiiii!”

10082 If you are seeing this text you are reading10082 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content10082 !

“Giyaaaa! Giaagaa!!”

6059 If you are seeing this text you are reading6059 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content6059 !

The goblins are panicking due to one of their companion’s sudden demise. In that opening, Momo and I cast our shadows at the goblin, binding them in the process. The enhanced skill of the “Shadow Master” is clearly stronger than before, so by putting in just a bit more strength-

18065 If you are seeing this text you are reading18065 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content18065 !

“Gigi...Gichaat!?”

18972 If you are seeing this text you are reading18972 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content18972 !

The goblins which could not withstand the pressure of the shadow are crushed to death.

633 If you are seeing this text you are reading633 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content633 !

“You have gained experience.”

13975 If you are seeing this text you are reading13975 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content13975 !

Good. What’s left is only the hobgoblin. It seems to be trying its best not to be squeezed to death, but that’s all it could do. I step forward and approach it instantly. With Aka who has become a weapon, I cut of its neck. I could have finished it faster by using heavy machinery, but as Rikka-chan is here, I just killed it the conventional way. I also wish to raise the proficiency of “Swordsmanship” and “Critical Aim” even by a bit.

1599 If you are seeing this text you are reading1599 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content1599 !

“You have gained experience.”

11787 If you are seeing this text you are reading11787 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content11787 !

The magic stones fall, and the Heavenly Voice announces the end of the battle. The battle ends in a matter of seconds.

16580 If you are seeing this text you are reading16580 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content16580 !

“Okay, we’re done. Good job, Momo.”

5168 If you are seeing this text you are reading5168 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content5168 !

“Wan!”

14434 If you are seeing this text you are reading14434 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content14434 !

She has approached me, wanting to be praised, so I praise her. Uri-uri, does it feel good here? Hmm? Here, here.

15862 If you are seeing this text you are reading15862 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content15862 !

“Wafu. Wafuuu.”

16000 If you are seeing this text you are reading16000 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content16000 !

Momo narrows her eyes and allows herself to become comfortable. So cute. I’m healed.

7731 If you are seeing this text you are reading7731 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content7731 !

“Kudou-san! Me too! I want to do it too!”

5680 If you are seeing this text you are reading5680 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content5680 !

Ichinose-san expresses her desire to mofu-mofu Momo. Momo is cute, so it can’t be helped. I guess I’ll give way. This is the selflessness of a working member of society.

12451 If you are seeing this text you are reading12451 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content12451 !

“Fluffy, fluffy...”

15524 If you are seeing this text you are reading15524 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content15524 !

“Wafu...”

9431 If you are seeing this text you are reading9431 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content9431 !

Ichinose-san is satisfied stroking Momo. Momo is satisfied with being stroked. Everyone is satisfied. Yeah, it’s a good thing.



8303 If you are seeing this text you are reading8303 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content8303 !

“Hm? What’s up, Aisaka-san?”

12739 If you are seeing this text you are reading12739 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content12739 !

Looking behind me, I witness Rikka-chan staring blankly with a stunned expression. What happened? Does she want to stroke Momo as well? That doesn’t seem the case though.

14186 If you are seeing this text you are reading14186 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content14186 !

“Aisaka-san?”

12093 If you are seeing this text you are reading12093 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content12093 !

“Huh? Oh, no, it’s nothing!”

15233 If you are seeing this text you are reading15233 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content15233 !

“Is that so?”

1172 If you are seeing this text you are reading1172 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content1172 !

It’s fine if that’s the case. I glance at Ichinose-san besides me, and she is also tilting her head in confusion. However, her hand continues to mofu-mofu Momo.

14707 If you are seeing this text you are reading14707 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content14707 !

“Well, we should carry on.”

10927 If you are seeing this text you are reading10927 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content10927 !

“.....Agreed.”

14875 If you are seeing this text you are reading14875 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content14875 !

Unwillingly, really unwilling, Ichinose-san lets go of Momo. Momo is cute, so it can’t be helped. Momo also voices out a “Kuuuu” in sadness, but please bear with me. Leveling up is the priority right now. Now, let’s look for the next target. We start walking again.

1735 If you are seeing this text you are reading1735 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content1735 !

Staring at the back of the person in front of her, Rikka was thinking.

7134 If you are seeing this text you are reading7134 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content7134 !

(This onii-san is overpowered...)

999 If you are seeing this text you are reading999 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content999 !

The event that just transpired was burned into her memories. It was obvious why. The moment she readied her weapon and took a step forward, the battle had ended.

8665 If you are seeing this text you are reading8665 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content8665 !

(I couldn't see onii-san's movements at all...)

10117 If you are seeing this text you are reading10117 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content10117 !

It wasn't at the level of just being fast. When she noticed, the goblins had been squeezed to death by the shadows and the hobgoblin's head was flying in the air. She knew that he was strong based on the skills he that told her, but she didn't think it was to this level.

4611 If you are seeing this text you are reading4611 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content4611 !

(Didn't this onii-san say he was level 18? Why is there such a huge gap despite being only 6 levels higher than me...?)

14882 If you are seeing this text you are reading14882 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content14882 !

Rikka thought she was decently strong. Even among her friends, she had the highest level, and her status had improved considerably as well. Her strength and agility had gone over 40. Not only were zombies and goblins no longer her opponent, she could also fight against orcs and shadow wolves without Nishino's assistance. Or so she thought.

2325 If you are seeing this text you are reading2325 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content2325 !

But as the saying goes, there is always someone above you.

5456 If you are seeing this text you are reading5456 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content5456 !

(I think I've become companions with an incredible person.)

19307 If you are seeing this text you are reading19307 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content19307 !

She couldn't help thinking so. At the same time, she felt like she was petty knowing that she was hiding the truth from such an amazing person as well as her best friend who she was able to finally meet up with.

11010 If you are seeing this text you are reading11010 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content11010 !

(Maybe I should tell them about it... but what good will come out of telling them?)

16318 If you are seeing this text you are reading16318 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content16318 !

What was the best course of action? Rikka pondered. However, she didn't come to an answer. She was never good at thinking to begin with. Soon, her brain overheated and steam came out. The Heavenly Voice resounded in her worried brain.

1034 If you are seeing this text you are reading1034 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content1034 !

"You received a mail."

259 If you are seeing this text you are reading259 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content259 !

"Fue?"

7042 If you are seeing this text you are reading7042 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content7042 !

Q: What are the trees?

18571 If you are seeing this text you are reading18571 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content18571 !

A: They're the trees that the protagonist observed outside in chapter 2. They grow everywhere in the city.

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Chapter 98

Source: Cipher

Report

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Going back in time -

Nishino, Shibata, and their crew were at a convenience store nearby the school.

"Really, aren't you glad that there's still some food left?"

“Yes, it honestly helps.”<sup>7534</sup> If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading <sup>7534</sup> from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content<sup>7534</sup> !

Nishino nodded while drinking from a bottle of tea. Although fresh foods such as salads and lunch boxes were spoiled, canned and vacuum-packed goods could be eaten without any problem. Inside the store, his friend was sitting on the floor and eating nonstop.

Although the food wouldn't run away even if they aren't consumed, it was understandable. After all, they hadn't had their fill for several days. While his group numbered less than 10, it was still quite the work to find enough food to fill their stomach. In particular, Nishino and his friends were high school students that need food to grow. They would feel double the hunger. Food was scarce at both the school and the home center, so it was really lucky for them to find some untouched supplies in the convenience store. (Well then, what now.)

Nishino contemplated about the future while grabbing a bag of potato chips that was limited flavor. Where should he head to? What should he do? (The place where a lot of people would gather. The closest place from here would be the city hall. Should I go there?)

If he was to look for his missing companions, common sense dictated that he should look around places where people gathered. Since they were a group possessing skills, they would be welcomed by the other party as well. He didn't plan on becoming close with anyone, but having a cooperative relationship was not bad either.

- Except he had one concern.

(If the other side has brainwashing skills like President Igarashi, it would become troublesome...)

Currently, Nishino was no longer under the influence of Igarashi Touka's "Enchantment" skill. There was a time limit to her "Enchantment", and unless the skill was cast on a regular basis, the effects would diminish gradually. To avoid this, she had conducted regular meetings to cast the skill in secret, but it went down the drains after the monster invasion. Nishino had regained his original thoughts, at the same time realizing that he had been brainwashed by her.

(How foolish of me...)

It seemed like he was too impatient. His separation with his companions must have shaken his heart more than he expected. In this state, he couldn't really laugh at Rikka. Since he had a similar skill, he should have had some doubts about the fact that other people, a high school girl no less, could rally so many people together. There should have been a limit to being careless.

(A tolerance skill or a skill which could nullify the effect of brainwashing skills...)

Countermeasures against brainwashing. He was very worried about being brainwashed by someone else again. It wasn't just him; he was worried for

his friends as well. Once brainwashed, what awaited was the fate of becoming a disposable pawn. He understood this better than anyone else as he had also thrown away other people's lives at the home center when the high orc attacked.

(Should we level up independently and set up our own base somewhere?) Instead of forcibly increasing their number, they could steadily increase their levels. Afterwards, create a base and select people to recruit. Wasn't this a more efficient way to survive in this world?

(This is plausible...)

Friends and strangers. Lives to save and lives to discard. The weight of people's lives were not equal to him. He would make use of anything that could be made use of, and he would save those dear to him even at the risk of his own life. In this world, such values were constantly being put to test. (The world's becoming more f\*cked up every day.)

One couldn't fight monsters without skills, but the existence of skills makes it necessary for them to be vigilant towards others. When he was cursing in his heart, he felt a gaze directed towards him. Shibata was looking at him with an uneasy face.

"What's wrong, Nishino-san? You're making a scary expression."

"Hm? Oh, sorry about that. I was just thinking about a little something."

"Thinking... about the future?"

"Oh, there's that, but there's also Rikka and Ono..."

He tossed some snacks inside his mouth. The seasoning was so strong that his tongues became spicy. He didn't like it much, but he wasn't in a situation where he could be luxurious. He rinsed his mouth with tea.

"Hope everyone's doing fine."

"They're alive. They must be."

At least Rikka and Ono would be, he told himself. Regarding these two, Nishino had no doubt that they were alive. Rikka was the strongest within their group, and while Ono wasn't anyone strong, there was nothing to complain about when it came to his surviving skills.

(Well, I'm slightly worried about the rest of them though.)

"Now, it's about time we move."

Having said that, he was about to stand up when,

"You received a mail."

He heard a voice within his head.

"Wha-?"

Mail? Where did that sound come from? Falling into a panic, Nishino looked around.

"Something wrong?"

"No..."

"Certain conditions have been met."

"It is now possible to acquire the skill 'Mail'."

"There is currently one unread mail."

There they were again. Voices were heard inside him.

“This...”

He quickly checked his status screen. Then, the screen changed to accommodate the mail function. While watching the changes, Nishino checked all the items listed. Shibata was staring at him like he was worried, but it wasn't the time for him to care about such trivial matters. Eventually, he found something that was indicated as “Unread”, so he clicked on it.

(Sender, Aisaka Rikka?... Rikka... RIKKA!?)

His expression changed upon seeing Rikka's name.

(Is it really her, or is it someone else?)

He immediately began to read the text.

“Hey, Nisshi. Are you alive? It's Rikka! (o ^ ▽ ^ o)□

I'm sorry to mail you suddenly. Are you surprised? (□Ω ) Tepero

Mail is a skill.

Are you safe?

I'm really worried.

Ah, by the way, as you can see, I'm safe. V\_ (.□ Ω □.). Yee ♪ ”

“.....”

His expression reverted back to normal. Besides him, Shibata raised a voice.

(No. Endure it. Endure it. Endure.)

There were many things he wanted to say about the fact that Rikka was safe and that there was a skill like “Mail”, but... the idiotic content messed everything up. He breathed deeply and put his thumb on between his eyebrows.

Calm down. Calm yourself.

Nishino suppressed his emotions and read the content of the mail until the end.

(I see...)

If he ignored the playful tone in the beginning, the rest was surprisingly actual information. It stated Rikka's current situation, explained about “Mail”, and told him to get the skill if at all possible. In addition, Nishino was surprised to be informed about magic stones and wild animals.

(At least I can rest assure that Rikka was the one who sent this mail.)

In this tense situation, there was no one else in the world who would send these annoying emoticons. Rikka was alive, and she was trying to establish contact with him. But this got Nishino thinking.

(Who is helping her?)

He was able to come to that conclusion immediately. To put it bluntly, Rikka was an idiot. She was the type of person who always lacked thought and speech. Her body would move before her mouth would. She wouldn't be able to send this much information in this clear manner.

Who was cooperating with her? The person who thought of the mail must have instructed this thoughtless girl to send it to him. Who was it? From the top of his head, he could think of the student council members, his friends, and-

(Is it Ichinose Natsu?)

That time during the battle in the cafeteria. Rikka was showing odd behaviors before the fight began. She was muttering something about a “Mail” and “Natsun”.

(Rikka’s behavior was obviously strange at the time...)

No, even before that, she was concerned about Ichinose. Her independent movement in the cafeteria battle could be attributed to her desire to chase after Ichinose.

(If so, did Rikka join up with Ichinose afterwards? And did she inform Rikka about the details of the “Mail” skill and send it to him?)

With his hand touching his chin, Nishino pondered. Wasn’t this scenario too baseless?

(The only thing I can ascertain is that Rikka is working along with someone else. If that’s the case...)

Quickly moving his finger along the status screen, he opened the list of acquirable skills. At the bottom, he saw the “Mail” was added.

“Shibata.”

“Yes, Nishino-san?”

“I’ve just got a new skill which I want to test out. Are you willing to assist me?”

“Eh? Well, I don’t mind, but what is it about?”

Nishino laughed slightly.

“It’s ‘Mail’.”

Either way, there was no loss in acquiring the skill. Considering the state of the current world, the value of this skill was immense.

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Chapter 99

Source: Cipher

Report

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Nishino who confirmed the usages of the skill “Mail” immediately shared it with his friends. He sent a “Mail” to every member, allowing them to meet the condition of acquisition, and instructed those with spare SPs to obtain the skill.

(In the end, six people including myself were able to get it.)

The remaining members had no points left, so it was decided that they would wait until their next level up. Nishino checked the list of contactable individuals.

(The list contains the name of people that I met after getting the skill...)17770 If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading 17770 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content17770 !

The people displayed in the address book were the names of those that he met after he acquired the skill. No, to be more exact, it was after he met the conditions to acquire the skill. He thought he might be able to send a mail to someone that got separated, but as expected, the skill wasn't that convenient.

Only the person who first established contact and the people that were around when the skill became available were added to the list. Specifically, it was only those that stood within a 5 meters radius.

(That's to be expected.)

Nishino didn't have much expectation to begin with. He just thought it would be "bonus" if it was possible. (TN: to contact his lost friends)

(But it's nice to know the name, especially when you're dealing with an opponent of unknown origin. It could be used for negotiations.)

Just by having the knowledge about the opponent's name, it could become a card he could utilize during negotiations. Not to mention those with pseudonyms, strangers that they meet for the first time would have the impression that they held more information than them. Despite this being the case, this wasn't the true advantage of having "Mail".

(With this skill, fighting against monsters would become far easier.)

In the current situation, communication was a crucial component that could be used strategically and serve as a trump card. Regardless of whether it's for ambushes, surprise attacks, or team coordination, having this skill would make a huge difference.

(Thanks, Rikka. With this, we can move one step forward.)

Following this, Nishino and his teammates discussed strategies and formations centered around the "Mail" skill. They also established a communication network in case they were separated. If they advantage of this skill well, their group might outshine other groups in the long run. If that happened, their future operations could run smoother.

(When we finish our meeting, we should meet up with Rikka.)

Nishino picked a location and time to meet with Rikka and sent her a mail.

A few minutes later--

"Okay, let's depart."

They were well-rested, and the bags were packed to the brim with canned and preserved food. There was no longer a reason to stay.

"Nishino-san, do we really have to leave? There is still some food left..."

Shibata sounded regretful, but Nishino shook his head.

"It can't be helped. This place isn't fit to be a base."

Not only was the location not ideal, the convenience store was too cramped for this number of people. It was better to set up a proper base before coming back to collect the food.

"Then we'll join up with Rikka. Everyone, as we have discussed just now....hmmm?"

He felt something ominous. It was from below.

(Vibration?)



Rattle. Rattle.

The ground was shaking.

(Earthquake?...No, it's not!)

In that instant, Nishino was assaulted by an uncomfortable feeling.

"Everybody! Get out of the convenience store right now!"

"Eh..."

Not knowing what Nishino was saying, they stood in place. It happened right after that. A crack ran across a certain part of the floor, collapsing with a loud noise.

"What...!?"

Suddenly, a large hole opened up on the floor. A deep, dark hole which looked as if it led to hell.

"What's this...?"

It was unlikely that the floor collapsed without a reason. Peering into the abyss, something, there was a glow from within. Something was there.

Kachi kachi. Kasa kasa.

Eerie sounds escaped from the hole.

"Hiiiiiiii..."

No one knew who had raised the voice. A giant ant emerged from the hole.

Giant ants about the size of humans crawled out one after another.

"Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

They screamed uncontrollably.

"RUN!!"

With Nishino's word as their signal, they began moving like water rushing out from a dam. However, one of the boys that was late in his escape stumbled on the floor.

"Ah..."

"Kasai!?"

Nishino shouted. Others also looked towards him. Countless ants were trying to flock towards the location where he fell.

"U....."

The boy named Kasai gaped at the approaching ants like it was the end of the world. The man who came to his rescue was the middle-aged man, Hachiro Goshogawara. Picking up his weapon, the log, which was placed near the magazine corner, he hurled it at the ants.

"NuooooooooooooooooOOOOOOO!"

"Wa....old man!?"

Several ants were pushed back into the hole by the force behind the log.

Goshogawara rushed to the boy with that opening.

"Stand up fast! Come on!"

"Y, yes!"

Grabbing onto the extended hand, the duo sprinted outside.

"Is everyone alright?"

"Somehow..."

"We're good."

“Fu... fu...”

There were already numerous ants inside the store, looking at them with red eyes.

“Those are... monster, right?”

“Course they are. As if ants THAT huge could exist...”

Killer ants. No, was it better to call them giant ants? Regardless of their name, they had to think of a way to overcome this ordeal.

“Everyone, block your ears!”

Nishino shouted while stepping forward. Understanding what he was about to do, they hurriedly blocked their ears.

“-‘ANTS! DO NOT MOVE FROM WHERE YOU STAND!’”

Almost instantly, some of the ants that were leaning out of the convenience store stopped their movements as if they had heard Nishino’s command.

And that was precisely what was going on. This was a skill known as “Command” which Nishino had. It was something that he received upon becoming a “Commander”.

What he could order depended upon his skill level. If there was a significant level difference between his target and himself, the success rate would be go up. At the same time, however, actions that went against the opponents’ will, such as “commit suicide” and “strike each other” had low chances of succeeding. Lastly, the more aggressively he commanded, the more individuals he would influence.

“We should use this time to flee!”

“We, we aren’t fighting them?”

“Of course we can’t. Look closely, only the ones in front have stopped moving.”

To be more accurate, only three had fallen under his influence. Behind them, there were tens of other ants. Once he activated his command, he could not use another command until the previous command’s effects disappeared. Against such a huge group of enemies, Nishino wasn’t strong enough to fend them off.

(If Rikka was present, the situation might have been different, but...)

As a crucial offensive unit, if Rikka was here, they could have fought evenly. Perhaps they might have even been at an advantage. However, there was no point in thinking about such a possibility when the person in question wasn’t even here.

“They seem to be alert after seeing that their friends have stopped moving.”

Fortunately, the rest of the ants only stared without rushing forward. They must have been wary of Nishino’s skill. Honestly, it was a relief. If they had attacked without minding, they might have met their ends here.

(But this also means they have enough intelligence to be vigilant...)

Ants were famous for being insects that formed societies. If this ecology also applied to monster, they could become extremely troublesome.

“The restraint would only last another 10 seconds. We got to start leaving.”

“Ouuu!”

The moment the effect of “Command” wore off, the ants would attack. Knowing that they were in a bad situation, they immediately left the place.

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Chapter 100  
Source: Cipher  
Report

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A reply came from Nishino-kun. The time and location of the meeting are written on the mail. We are planning on going there directly, but first...  
“We’re taking a break here.”  
I point to a multi-story apartment. Even before the world changed, it was a building without any tenants. There aren’t any signs of monsters around, so let us rest here for now. Personally, I have more than enough stamina. However...  
“Heee.... Heeee... Haaaa... Uffu..... Haaaa”13215 If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading 13215 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content13215 !  
Ichinose-san is panting heavily, looking as if she might die any moment. Yup, I knew this would happen.  
Moving without being carried by me, this is what will inevitably occur. Despite having the “Body Strengthening” skill, her status is still much lower than either Rikka-chan or myself. Trying to match up with our pace, this is an obvious outcome.  
Yet...  
“G, getting piggybacked is too embarrassing... I can’t show Ricchan such a miserable figure.”  
Just like that, she rejected the idea of being piggybacked. As a result, she had to walk normally, and this is the result.  
“Are you okay, Natsun? Do you feel like throwing up? Should I pat your back?”  
“It’s okay.... There’s.... no problem... here...”  
By being stubborn, she is now showing a miserable figure. This is Ichinose-san quality. Such a pitiful child... Wouldn’t it have been better if I just carried her?  
For some reason, Ichinose-san tries to put up a front in front of Rikka-chan...Ichinose-san comes closer to my side.  
(...I’m sorry. From next time, please just carry me on your back.)  
(Yes, yes. I understand.)  
It seems like she has given up on being stubborn. It’s good that she’s honest.  
Entering the multi-story building, we find a suitable place to take a break.  
“This place should be alright. Ichinose-san, please have a good rest.”  
“Yes... sorry about... this...”

With her shoulder going up and down, Ichinose-san takes a seat on the chair provided. She seems much better than before. The change happened as soon as she entered the room. Is this the influence of being a “Hiki Komori”?

When we traveled outside, she was always riding the bike or on my back, but does a “Hiki Komori” receive penalties for performing activities outdoors? It’s called a “Hiki Komori” for a reason, after all.

Since Ichinose-san has “Body Strengthening”, it doesn’t seem like she has trouble traveling normally, but when she has to run or travel for long distances, she gets exhausted very fast.

I lightly tap on my shadow.

“Momo, come out.”

“Wan!”

Coming out from the shadows, Momo barks in reply. I mofu-mofu her. Fufu.

“I’ll be exploring this building. In the meantime, please stay next to them.”

“Wan!”

Since Ichinose-san has “Cognitive Impediment”, she is almost definitely safe inside the building, but just in case. Momo will inform me if something happens.

“Explore? But with Kudou-san’s ‘Enemy Detection’...”

“Just in case. It’s just in case. And...”

I approach Ichinose-san and whisper gently.

(My skill won’t reach here from the rooftop. If you have anything to discuss with here, don’t you think this is a good opportunity?)

(That’s!)

In response to my words, Ichinose-san’s shoulders shake visibly.

“Natsun, what’s up?”

“No, it’s nothing.”

I watch from the side as Ichinose-san fumbles around. I think I might have the most irritating expression on my face right now.

“Then please take your time.”

(They must have a lot to catch up on. Please take your time talking.)

“Yes... thank you... very much...”

Ichinose-san must have understood what I am doing here. I leave the room while waving my hand.

“Now then, what will come of this...”

Mumbling so, I head for the roof.

After Kazuto left, Ichinose and Rikka were left alone in the room. Momo sat near the window, staring at them without moving.

“That’s quite the impressive onii-san.”

Rikka opened her mouth first. Sitting on an office chair, she rotated around while staring at Ichinose.

“Impressive, you say?”

"Yes, in many aspects. Not only in terms of skills and level, he can also overwhelm monsters which I will struggle to defeat. Oh right, but it's the same for you."

"Eh?"

"Because when you're confronting a monster, you seem like a completely different person. Your eyes gleam like they're saying 'I only need a single shot'."

"Sorry, but I don't get what you're saying."

"Huh? Natsun doesn't read light novels?"

"Not so much for novels... but I read manga."

"Is that so?"

"Yup."

"....."

"....."

The conversation came to a halt. Their exchange didn't last longer.

Ichinose felt impatient. It was strange. She really wanted to talk more, but she couldn't speak. Her best friend who she met after a year.

Even though they had brushed past each other, they hadn't had the chance to speak slowly with each other. Truthfully speaking, Ichinose had known in advance about the bullying and the reason behind it.

(Uuuuu, what should I do... Kudou-san even set the stage for me...)

Wasn't this too high of a hurdle for someone with communication disorder?

And it's a face to face conversation? Her nervousness was justified.

My stomach is tingling. Also, I feel nauseous.

But I have to hold myself back. I've already shamed myself in front of Kazuto-san. I can't possibly do that in front of my best friend. But what can I do?

OH! The "Mail"! I can communicate using "Mail". My words will flow out naturally and... Nonono, what am I saying. She's right in front of me. Am I an idiot? "Communication"...Is there no such skill called "Communication"? In this manner, a small Ichinose was in her brain, crying in tears.

"Hey, Natsun, there's one thing I want to ask you."

Rikka was staring at her with a serious expression.

"What is it?"

Observing the solemn atmosphere, she corrected her posture.

"Natsun after this... after meeting with Nisshi, what are you going to do?"

"What am I going to do?"

"Do you want to move with us?"

"..."

Confronted with the question, Ichinose went silent for a reason different from before. It was something that was already on her mind. Rikka was traveling with them because she had the goal of uniting with her teammates.

So what would happen after that?

Would they be cooperating?

(Most likely not...)

Ichinose shook her head inside. Kazuto and her fight styles were meant to be for solos, not for group battles. Before they formed a party, they moved independently, so there was no helping it.

Above all, they had too many secrets that they had to keep from others.

Item Box, a dog with skills, and a slime which could mimic.

If people knew about the food inside the Item Box, people would want it with drool dripping from their mouths. Also, there would be many people who would not accept Momo and Aka because they were a threat like monsters.

Furthermore, Kazuto and herself were not comfortable being in a group with "others". They didn't hate other people, but they didn't like the particular atmosphere that groups exuded.

The more people there were, the more forceful they would be. Some people might do something against them as well. Because they possessed skills, they would feel like they were more powerful. If it is for "everyone", the "group" might compel them to do something. They would behave this way despite being in an inferior position. Kazuto had once voiced out this concern.

"I see. As expected, we can't be together huh."

Interpreting what her silence meant, Rikka looked sad.

"Well, Ricchan... you know..."

"It's okay. I know. But then again, with your communication issue, it won't work out even if you join up with Nisshi. "

Ni shi shi. Rikka laughed, making Ichinose slightly offended.

"That's not the case! Even I can..."

"Even you can?"

"That... if I try my best... I can... speak normally... with other people...."

"Young lady, despite saying that, your voice is becoming softer and softer."

"Muuuu."

Rikka laughed even more at Ichinose who inflates her cheek.

"You're mean, Ricchan."

"Ahahaah, sorry. I mean, watching your reactions is so interesting that I had to."

She laughed once more and said, "But, yup. I see, I see. So Natsun's saying that it's more comfortable to travel with that nii-san."

"H, how did that translate into this topic?"

Ichinose's face faintly turned red.

"Because it's written on Natsun's face."

"Eh?"

Reflectively, Ichinose rubbed her face.

"Ahahaha, Natsun's too easy to read."

"Wha!?"

She finally realized that she was being teased.

"Ahahahaha, to think that Natsun will.... Oh, I'm jealous of that nii-san. To think he could make Natsun mero-mero<sup>1</sup> in just a few days."

"Mero-mero... it's not like that."

"Well then."

Rikka's spoke, covering what Ichinose was about to say. Her smile up to this point was replaced by a serious expression, making it appear as if her previous behavior was a lie. Looking straight at Ichinose, she held her hand tightly.

"Is it possible for me to continue being in your group?"

"Eh...?"

Opening her eyes wide, Ichinose stared at Rikka. She realized that Rikka wasn't joking with her.

"Around now, they should be chatting with each other."

I am currently leaning on a fence on top of the rooftop. I can't hear their conversation. To be honest, with this distance, it's not impossible for me to listen in on their conversation. Unique skill, "Profession Enhancement". By enhancing a skill, I can eavesdrop on what they're saying despite being upstairs.

Even so, I am not willing to do that because that would be akin to betraying Ichinose-san. Although we are in a party... no, because we're in a party, I have to follow the rule.

They might have things which they don't want others to know. If I step over that line, no one would trust me, and I won't be able to put my trust in others either. The same goes for Momo and Aka. It's ironic that such rules are important in this world where order does not exist.

(From what I can imagine, they should be talking about what they would do after this occasion.)

After meeting Nishino-kun, will they continue to act together, or will they separate? Probably, Rikka-chan is concerned with this question. While arriving here, she was constantly taking a peek at Ichinose-san.

"Perhaps she will invite her to join their group..."

And if Ichinose-san accepts the invitation...

"Then... that will be that."

Regardless of Ichinose-san's decision, I'm planning on respecting it, even if that means disbanding the party. That would be a bit... no, quite saddening. But it's there's no helping it after all.

"...Hmmm?"

Suddenly, I see a monster while looking around through the fence.

"This is my first time seeing a monster like that."

It's a zombie wearing equipments that makes me remember a Roman warrior. Its face is hidden by a full-face helmet, its exposed skin is dark red, and its hands are wielding huge a huge sword and a shield.

Zombie knight.... No, should I say death knight?

Is it the superior species of zombies? The death knight comes straight towards our direction.

“Guess we’ll hunt it.”

From what “Crisis Detection” is telling me, the strength of this creature is around the same level as shadow wolves and orcs. I don’t see any other zombies around it, so it’s a suitable target.

Not much time has passed considering the discussion they must be having, but there’s no helping it. I immediately send a signal to Ichinose-san who is on a lower floor.

[1] Mero-mero: infatuated, fall in love. I’m assuming that it has to do with marshmallows.

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Chapter 101

Source: Cipher

Report

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I get over the rooftop fence and jump down to the ground. Without needing to use the shadow to cushion my fall, I land normally. It doesn’t hurt at all.

“It feels like I’m casually leaving behind my humanity...”

This is a five-story building you know...? After exceeding 100 in power and endurance, my body is visibly changing. When I was fighting the dark wolf, I was also moving about in the air.

Although I created stepping grounds using the Item Box, that wasn’t what humans could accomplish. 6956 If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading 6956 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content6956 !

“Well, but it was thanks to that that I survived...”

“Momo.”

Momo’s bark interrupts my thoughts. Behind me, Ichinose-san and Momo come out from the window, followed closely by Rikka-chan.

“Hmm?”

Rikka-chan’s expression somehow looks dark. What were they talking about?

“Is it a monster?”

Ichinose-san asks. She... seems fine. So only Rikka-chan is depressed.

“Yes, there is only one enemy. It is a monster I’ve seen for the first time. It’s an undead with sword and shield. It’s probably a superior species of zombies. It’s around eighty meters ahead on the straight street.”

I provide the information about our enemy, and Ichinose-san’s expression changes. It’s Ichinose-san in combat mode.

“Okay, I’ll provide cover.”

“Yes please. Momo and I will try to close our distance and launch a surprise attack from its blind spot.”

“Um... what about me?”



"Aisaka-san will be a guerrilla. Please stay beside Ichinose-san. If anything happens, you can move."

Well, the fight might end before anything happens, but I don't mention that.

"Now. Begin the operation."

I leave Ichinose-san and start running. Moving along the walls, I approach in a fashion that the opponent cannot see.

(Okay, around here would do...)

I secure a good position. From between the walls, I take a look. The opponent is clearly visible.

"Aaaaaaaaaaaaa..."

The death knight lets out a creepy voice while looking around.

Its size isn't so different from ordinary zombies. It's around the height of humans. Nevertheless, the big sword in its hand is filled with thick blood. The air of intimidation surrounding it is also incomparable with ordinary zombies.

(It doesn't seem to have noticed us... )

Recently, I've only been confronting enemies that can see through stealth, so it's relieving to know that my skills are functioning.

When I turn my eyes towards another place, I witness Momo on the other side of the dark knight. I'm currently not with Momo. We have positioned ourselves so that we can launch a pincer attack from both sides.

In other words, the dark knight is at the center while Momo and I are hiding at its left and right where it cannot see. Also, Ichinose-san and Rikka-chan are facing the dark knight head on from a distance away.

"...Momo"

"Wan."

I raise my right hand and signal Momo. We shoot out shadows from both sides at the same time. They're aimed towards the death knight.

"Aaaaaaaaaaaa...?"

The moment the shadows touch the death knight, it shouts and cleaves the ground with its large sword. Along with the sound of the ground being cut, the shadows disperse.

Chi, so it noticed. Its reaction speed is quite formidable for it to react to the shadows from this distance.

(It's didn't foresee it in advance...)

If it was a skill, then it would have responded much faster. What this means is that the death knight reacted to the shadows purely with its superior reaction speed.

In that case... I aim at the death knight's head and release heavy equipments. However...

"!? You've got to be kidding...?"

This time, I raise my voice in astonishment. Against all odds, the death knight also responds to this. It raises its shield, blocking the heavy machinery that appears overhead.

"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

Then, shifts the shield diagonally and throws the equipments away.  
Zuzun!

The heavy equipments sink to the ground. Seriously... did it just block my attack at first glance? Its movements feel more polished and refined compared to conventional monsters. Its appearance reminds me of an experienced fighter.

"Aaaaa"

"Tsu~!"

Suddenly, the red and cloudy eyes hidden beneath its helmet turn towards me. So, it managed to grasp my position from the direction of the shadow earlier. Then....

" 'The Art of Cloning'. "

I instantly summon two clones of myself. I make them hold weapons and charge at the death knight. Simultaneously, Momo, who has been hiding until now, comes out.

"Momo! Now!"

"Wan!"

"Wa ~o~o ~o~o ō Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo  
ooooooooooooooooooooon!!"

The "Roar" that Momo releases assaults the death knight. The ground cracks, the windows shatter, and the air quivers.

"...!"

Because the clones are hindering them, the death knight fails to move from its spot and falters from its position. I release heavy machinery on top of him again.

"Gah..aaaaAAAA!!"

Despite so, the dead knight pours his strength into raising his shield. But it's too slow. With a short gunshot, its elbow caves in.

It's from Ichinose-san, the sniper. In addition, the second and third shots land cleanly on the knight's knee and elbow.

"Ah... gaaa...."

She must have observed our exchange from before. With its head and heart being protected by armor, hitting other places would not be lethal to a zombie. As such, she shot at those locations with impeccable timing. As one would expect of Ichinose-san.

The effects of her bullets greatly restrict the dark knight's movements. With its elbows mostly destroyed, it cannot raise its shield. With its knees greatly injured, it cannot even stand properly. The death knight eventually gets crushed to death by the machineries.

"You have gained experience."

"Experience has reached a certain threshold."

"Kudou Kazuto's level has increased from 18 to 19."

Good, my level rose. While internally making a guts pose, I retrieve the machineries. After picking up its magic stone, I proceed to put it in the Item Box. It is labeled "Zombie's magic stone (small)".

Does (small) indicate that it was around the level of shadow wolves and hobgoblins? As predicted, their strength really varies depending on their race. From my view, its death knight shadow wolf hobgoblin.

There was the matter of compatibility, but death knight was definitely the toughest opponent. Of course, the high orc and the dark wolf are separate matters. They cannot be used as a comparison.

"As I thought, when it comes to superior species, I need to have something else in my arsenal... "

Instantly killing with "Shadow Manipulation" or "Item Box". As the ranks of monsters rise, the success rate drops tremendously.

The high orc with its brute strength.

The dark wolf with its special power over the shadows.

The death knight with its skill and experience.

They respectively had methods to deal with my surprise attacks.

"I should consider some follow-up moves in case my attacks are blocked..."

This is something I should consult with Ichinose-san.

"First of all, I should head back to the building and distribute my status points... Nn?"

Thinking so, I move towards Momo's direction. In that instant.

"... What?"

For a moment, I felt a shiver. My feet stop moving. When I take a look, Momo isn't moving either. Suddenly, I'm starting to have a "bad feeling".

What is this? Is something here? But... where?

I inspect everywhere around me, but I don't see anything. Was I mistaken?

No, that's impossible. The "bad feeling" is getting more intense. Cold sweat runs down my body. My breathing becomes rough due to the unknown pressure. Where? From where...?

"Tsu..."

Looking below at my feet, the ground is shaking and making a rattling sound.

"Momo! Fall back!"

I instinctively shout out. Momo retreats almost at the same time.

The next moment, a huge stone pillar pierces the ground where we were standing.

"This...!"

It isn't just one. The second and the third pillars appear one after another, until all five makes its appearance.

"What... is this?"

I fall into confusion. But the incident isn't over yet. More stone pillars appear from a distance. This time, there are also five of them.

The shaking intensifies. The ground rises along with the appearance of the pillars. Adjacent buildings collapse continuously.

I finally understand. What I initially thought were pillars aren't pillars at all. They're just a part of something much bigger in magnitude. If one was to look down from high up, he or she would understand what is going on. To

put it into words, it's like seeing someone crawl up from below the ground. However, the scale is completely different.

The ground splits, buildings crash, and the terrain deforms. Staring, neither Momo nor I say anything.

The shaking stops. The whole picture is revealed. Its huge body has an egg-shaped torso, with short legs and long arms attached to it. It's a huge golem which could be mistaken for a building.

“What... the heck....?”

Unfortunately, the incident is not over. A crack runs through its head. A huge hole manifests itself. Is that... its mouth?

That very moment, I am overwhelmed by a uneasy feeling.

“This is bad! Aka! Momo!”

Aka inflates its body at my signal, and Momo jumps into the shadows. Right afterwards...

"—— Ru~o..... rururu Ruru ~u~u ~u~u ūu Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo  
Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo Ōo ooooooooooooooooooooo!!!"

A devastating roar reminiscent of a certain high orc. No, maybe this is even worse. The surrounding buildings that had cracks are shattered by the cry and fall down. As if a major earthquake had occurred, everything within tens of meters of radius has been reduced to rubbles.

“What... is this....?”

Standing up, I witness the disaster that has occurred. The destructive power far surpasses anything I've seen up until now. I hold my breath upon seeing the sight.

“Ru~u~u.”

As if satisfied by the destruction, the giant golem stops roaring.

“This...”

This... is impossible. I have to escape. Both my instinct and my skills are telling me that I can't win. Using "Enemy Detection", I locate the positions of Ichinose-san and Rikka-chan. Seems like they're still alive. Although it's small, they're also carrying around a part of Aka. Navigating through the shadows, Momo appears near my feet.

(Pick up Ichinose-san and Rikka-chan. And then, and then...)

I immediately start acting. An escape at the level of the high orc... no, an escape far more dangerous than that has begun.

“Huh? Two of them were defeated?”

“Aaaaaaaa...?”

“Oh, I’m talking about the ones we sent as scouts. Two among the four were killed. One was by a team of humans. A human who can manipulate shadows, a dog which can roar, and a sniper, is it? It’s a balanced team. The other was by... a black wolf, it seems.”

“Aaaaaah?”

“Whether or not they’re strong? I watched them through the ‘Eyes’, and they’re quite powerful. Probably can’t beat either side in our current state.

Especially the black wolf. That one is at a different dimension. No matter what we do, we can't beat it."

"Aaaaaaaa."

"Don't be so pessimistic. It's also important to know that there are opponents that we cannot beat. That is also a form of knowledge. Ah, excellent. Let's experience things one by one. Through the accumulation of verification, education, failure, frustration, and success, we become stronger."

"Aaaaaaa...?"

"Yes, we will move. We're going on an assault. The place is ... the City Hall. There are enemies to watch out for, such as the ants and the golem, but we can earn a ton of experience at once here."

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Chapter 102

Source: Cipher

Report

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"Ha... Ha ha..."

I notice myself laughing. Humans tend to laugh when they are confronted with something nonsensical.

It is already the fifth day since the world started overflowing with monsters. I thought I had my share of surprises, but apparently I was being naïve.

".....Ruuuuuuu...ruuuuuu...."4181 If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading 4181 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content4181 !

Is that its cry? The colossus rock giant steps forward whilst shaking its body unsteadily.

That alone causes the earth to shake. For a moment, my body floats in the air. I nearly fall down.

"Tsu...."

This is bad. I might get sucked in.

Run. Move, my feet! I run at maximum velocity. The surrounding area is already reduced to rumbles after its last "Roar". Using "Enemy Detection", I locate Ichinose-san and Rikka-chan.

There must have been monsters and people cooped up in their houses around us. I sense multiple presences from underneath the wreckages. My improved hearing picks up words like "It hurts", "Someone help me", and "Giggiii".

"As if I give a damn."

I don't have the leeway to mind other people's businesses. I run. Without thinking of anything else, I run towards where the two girls are. There they are.

They're around 20 meters ahead of us. They are found underneath some boulders. Besides them, I can see the body of Aka who is at the size of a baseball. Despite being in its weakened state, it must have managed to shield them.

Good job, Aka. I'll praise you a lot later on.

"Furu furu."

I guess my feelings were conveyed, Aka who is mimicking a hood wiggles in delight. While patting my hood, I head towards them.

"Are you both safe?"

"We, we're fine..."

I remove the boulders around them using the Item Box. It's a relief that their injuries both seem light. Their weapons are fine too.

"What is that monster...How did it suddenly..."

"I don't know, but we don't have a choice but to escape from it."

"I agree. Resisting it won't do anything to it."

Attacking with massive quantities of objects using the item box, squeezing it with shadows, and utilizing Ninjutsus will deal negligible damage against an opponent so huge. Ichinose-san's bullets and Rikka-chan's slashes won't make a difference either.

It's too disadvantageous to battle. And the size difference is too massive.

"Yes, so please excuse me for doing this..."

"Eh?"

"What?"

I carry Rikka-chan on my left and shoulder Ichinose-san on my right.

"Kakakakak kazu, Kudou-san!?"

"I'm sorry but please stay still."

Apologies, but I won't be taking any complaints. I can't afford it right now.

With my current status, there is no problem with running while carrying two people. Not to mention Ichinose-san, Rikka-chan's agility is far lower than mine, so moving in this fashion is faster.

Also, these two are surprisingly light. Why are girls so light and soft in the first place? No, I don't have the time to be thinking about this. I begin dashing.

I'm fleeing while using "Escape" and my over-300 agility to their utmost. My speed gradually increases, and the distance between us is also getting bigger.

"...So it's no good."

But I can still feel it. The "bad feeling" is not going away.

"What... is that...?"

Ichinose-san is the one who says that. Her head is turned towards the back, so she must have a clear picture of what is happening. From behind, I hear eerie sounds of something breaking and being peeled off.

"Eh, l, lies. To throw something like that is..."

"Tsu..."

With that alone, I can imagine what's going on. My instinct and skills are ringing at maximum volume. I stop abruptly and jump to the right while enduring the pain coming from the bones due to the recoil.

The next moment, a building flies past where we were standing with great momentum.

"What the...?"

DOGOOOOOOOOOOON!!!

Several buildings collapse as if they're made of paper. Dust rises up in the air and blocks our vision. Standing among the rising dust, my brain fails to process the event that has transpired.

"What just..."

Gigigi

I turn my head while sounding like a rusted machine. My vision gradually becomes clear. A distance away, I see the huge golem in a posture like a pitcher who has finished pitching.

"Ruuuuuuu...."

I finally understand what happened. I see. So it threw it. Using its stupidly huge hands, it demolished a stupidly huge apartment and threw it at us.

That's all there was to it. How simple.

"A real monster..."

What is this? The scale is too different. There should be a limit to absurdities.

"Ruuuuuuu...."

The golem now scoops up the rubble pile at its feet. No way... is it going to throw that at us this time?

This is bad. Throwing something massive is already bad enough. I don't have the confidence of dodging a wave of boulders. Just one hit is enough to take someone out. Ichinonse-san and Rikka-chan have despairing expressions on their face.

However, the golem does something unexpected.

"What...?"

This time around, I seriously can't comprehend what's occurring. It's eating the rubbles. It's pouring it into its mouth as if they're peanuts.

"Ruuuuu...Ugu....Agu....ruuuuuu...."

A creepy chewing sound resonates throughout the air. After swallowing, it scoops up another pile of rubbles.

The attack... isn't coming. Why?

"Ah..."

I should have escaped immediately. Instead, I saw the "scene". My enhanced vision captures the figures of humans between the rubbles. My enhanced hearing captures the screams of those people.

No!

Stop!

Someone save me!

I don't want to die, I don't want to die, I don't want to die.

Ignoring their pleas, the golem continues its meal. Along with the sound of rubbles being crushed, sounds of something being minced get transmitted to my ears.

Boribori. Guchagucha. Boribori. Guchagucha. Boribori. Guchagucha.  
Boribori. Guchagucha. Boribori. Guchagucha. Boribori. Guchagucha.  
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Boribori. Guchagucha. Boribori. Guchagucha. Boribori. Guchagucha.  
“Uuuu...”

I almost vomit. Digusting. It’s too much gore. Since I could withstand the sight of people being killed by monsters, I didn’t think the sight of people being eaten would be so much more terrible.

My spirit cannot withstand it. A voice is heard inside my head.

“Proficiency has reached a certain threshold.”

“‘Stress Resistance’ has increased from LV 9 to LV 10.”

“The level of ‘Stress Resistance’ has reached the upper limit.”

“Certain conditions have been met.”

“You have acquired the skill ‘Mental Distress Resistance’.”

“The existing skill ‘Stress Resistance’ has been integrated into the skill ‘Mental Distress Resistance’.”

“‘Mental Distress Resistance’ has increased from LV 1 to LV 2.”

“The existing skill ‘Fear Resistance’ has been integrated into the skill ‘Mental Distress Resistance’.”

“‘Mental Distress Resistance’ has increased from LV 2 to LV 3.”

“The existing skill ‘Aberration Resistance’ has been integrated into the skill ‘Mental Distress Resistance’.”

“‘Mental Distress Resistance’ has increased from LV 3 to LV 4.”

Instantly, I feel light-hearted. My mind returns to normal so quickly that the previous suffering feels almost like a dream.

Oh, I did it. I reached the limit of “Stress Resistance”. So “Mental Distress Resistance” is the skill above that. Furthermore, by integrating other resistance skills, it has leveled up many times. It really helps. With this, I can act calmly again.

“Haha...”

I unknowingly smile.

“What happened, Kudou-san?”

Ichinose-san acts anxiously.

“Nothing, I just panicked a bit. Let’s quickly flee.”

Putting my strength into holding the two girls, I activate “Escape”. I can still hear the sound of someone screaming behind me. I can also still hear the sound of someone being crushed.

But I am no longer worried.

We successfully leave the giant behind while it is concentrated on its meal.

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Chapter 103  
Source: Cipher  
Report

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I run, run, and run some more. In the process of doing so, I meet quite a number of monsters and humans, but I ignore them all. Since my skills are activated, it's not like they can see me anyways.

"Haaa... Haaaa... Coming this far, we should be safe..."

Catching my breath, I observe my environment. We are current at... a park near the City Hall. It's quite wide. With trees and small hills present here and there, I don't have a clear view of everything.

Around the edge of the park, I can see a fountain without water and a convenience store that was recently built. 6168 If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading 6168 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content6168 !

(There isn't any presence of monsters...)

"Enemy Detection" isn't picking anything up, and I don't see anyone within my view. Of course, there is the possibility of creatures hiding...

"...Mm?"

Now that I think about it, isn't this where we're supposed to meet Nishino-kun? While running around, it appears that we have arrived at our destination.

Yoisho tto.

I put the two girls down.

"U....uge~e~e~e~e~e"

As soon as her feet touch the ground, Ichinose-san throws up. Yup, I expected no less. After all, she was moving at an incredible speed while being carried in an uncomfortable posture. I knew this would happen to her. She must have been holding back for a while.

"How do you feel, Natsun? Should I pat your back?"

Rikka-chan cares for Ichinose-san. She puts her arms around Ichinose-san's shoulder and supports her back. What a gentle child.

"Wan!"

Momo comes out from the shadows and pounces on me enthusiastically.

"...♪ Furu furu."

Similarly, Aka undoes its mimicry and latches itself around me.

"Aka, Momo. You guys have worked hard."

Since I know that there aren't any monsters near us, I mofu-mofu to my heart's content. The soft sensation of the furs and the jelly-like sensation of Aka heal my heart.

"Ah, right. Momo, here."

"Wafu?"

I take out the Zombie's Magic Stone (Small) from the Item Box. It's the one that the death knight dropped just now. Let's give this one to Momo.

"Wafu...?"

"Furu furu."

Momo looks at Aka for a moment. Aka shakes as if to say, it's fine.

"Wan!"

Thanking Aka, Momo swallows the magic stone. She's wagging her tail a lot. She must be delighted by the treat.

"Uuu... even now, the world is spinning..."

With Rikka-chan's assistance, Ichinose-san comes over here. As expected of her, despite all this, she doesn't let go of her gun.

"Sorry. At that time, I thought it was the best method to survive."

"Oh no, it's not Kudou-san's fault. It's because I'm not fast enough..."

"Even so, I apologize for treating you girls so roughly."

"It's fine. It wasn't that bad. Also, I'm sorry if I was heavy."

"No, no. It was my bad. You weren't heavy either. Rather, you were very light. No problem at all."

"No, really-"

"No, no, no-"

While bowing our heads at each other, I hear someone cough next to us. Rikka-chan is staring at us.

"Hey, onii-san. I'm here as well, you know."

"Ah, sorry about that..."

"S, sorry, Ricchan."

"Why are you both apologizing immediately? Is this a habit?"

It's probably our instinct. This is a unique skill of Japanese people that I developed during my years as an office worker, also known as "Apologizing for the time being and lowering my head".

Rikka-chan might be unaware, but communication starts with bowing one's head in society. By receiving training little by little by one's boss, one would eventually develop into a full-fledged corporate slave.

Well, in Ichinose-san's case, it's just her issue with speaking to others.

Anyways, this isn't what's important right now.

"More importantly, Aisaka-san, Nishino-kun and his group don't seem to be here?"

"Eh? Oh, now that you mention it..."

Rikka-chan also notices that this is where we were scheduled to meet. She looks here and there, but Nishino-kun is nowhere to be seen. The likeliness of them hiding is... pretty low.

It's understandable if only one or two members have it, but it's not likely that the entire group possesses stealth-related skills. Also, their skill levels shouldn't be high enough to trick Momo and I's "Enemy Detection".

"... Perhaps something happened to them?"

"Ricchan, try checking your mails. Did you get anything? "

"Wait a second. I'll check right now..."

Tapping on her status screen, Rikka-chan checks her mailbox.

"Nothing... arrived."

"..."

Did an accident occur? No, there must have been one. An emergency. An emergency so urgent that he didn't have the time to write a mail.

"Let's try sending him a letter. There might be some reaction from him."

"Okay, got it."

Rikka-chan immediately shoots a mail at Nishino-kun.

"And just in case, let's search around this area. They might be hiding."

"You're... right."

I do not tell her that the chances of this are low.

Thereafter, the three of us searched the entire park. We encountered monsters once, but nothing big happened as they were just two goblins.

Nevertheless, we weren't able to find any trace of Nishino-kun's group.

"Where are you... Nisshi..."

As if the sky is reflecting her emotions, dark clouds begin to spread in all directions.

-Some time ago.

When Kazuto and his group were having their confrontation with the death knight, Nishino's group was running away from the army of ants.

"Haa...haaa... Shibata, are they there?"

"No, I don't see any from over here."

"Fuuu...Fuuuu....None here either."

Shibata and Goshogawara responded. Currently, they were hiding at one of the corners of the shopping district.

Although the shopping street was near the station and the City Hall, large chain stores in the suburban areas attracted customers away from the district, making it less crowded and even deserted.

It was a place with very little traffic in the first place, but now there were no more signs of human life. Of course, monsters were still present everywhere.

"Seems like we were separated yet again..."

"Yeah..."

Nishino immediately sent "Mails" to his team members. Some responded instantly.

"Good, everyone is alive... and they aren't far away. We should quickly gather up."

While they weren't together, they could communicate with each other due to the "Mail" skill. Nishino was glad from the bottom of his heart that he told the others about this skill.

(Looks like even those that didn't acquire the skill are moving with those that did.)

This was something Nishino had arranged as well. In case they were forced to flee in different directions, those that didn't possess the skill were to stay

near those that did. Just by doing this, they were able to respond to situations in a different manner.

Nishino was relieved that the others were following their previously agreed arrangements. Nishino didn't realize at this point that this was due to the correction coming from his occupation as the "Commander".

A person who was a "Commander" could strongly influence his peers through words. It didn't have the brainwashing effect of Igarashi Touka's "Enchantment", but it could make people take action to a certain extent.

"What are we going to do, Nishino-san?"

"Nothing else to do but to go to the park."

It wasn't so far from where they were. They could arrive in minutes if they ran.

(But this also means that the distance is within the range of the ants' activity.)

Nishino's expression did not look good. Their enemy had superior numbers. Even if they joined up with the others, it was unknown whether or not they could survive.

(Chi... and here I thought we could make use of our teamwork to becoming stronger...)

Having "Mail" made it much easier for them to cooperate. They could deal with monsters possessing strong "individual" strength.

As soon as this became true, they encountered the ants. They were monsters that formed societies to create "hoards" rather than a mere "collection of individuals" like what they encountered yesterday at school.

Their enemies were ants. Individually, they were at lower levels. However, the hoard consisted of dozens, even hundred of ants. They were giant black ants that were around one meter in size, with red eyes and jaws that could chew anything as hard as the floors of the convenience store.

While they were slower than them, they had exoskeletons like normal ants, and using iron pipes could not deal a fatal damage against them.

Restraining them with "Command" was possible, but only 3-4 ants would be affected. Since they could receive "Commands", it meant that they had the ability to hear.

Since they appeared from underground, there was also the possibility of their "nest" being nearby.

(That's about how much we know about them...For the time being, I should be wary of attacks from below.)

The more he thought about it, the more Nishino realized the precarious situation they were in.

A game-like world? No. From his perspective, he only felt malice from the appearances of game-like systems, skills, and monsters. It felt like they were being forced to fight and kill. Don't mess with me, he wanted to cry out.

(But I can't give up...)

He had to survive. He couldn't stand the possibility of dying without knowing what was going on in this messed up world. That being the case, Nishino thought hard of a way to break through and survive this situation. While watching out for assaults from ants and monsters, Nishino and his company started walking through the shopping district towards their destination.

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Chapter 104  
Source: Cipher  
Report

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We're currently waiting for Nishino-kun to contact us, but I'll be using my time effectively. For now, let's distribute the points I got from the last level up. My current level is 19.

Including last time's remainder, I have 24 JP and 20 SP.

First, I raise both "Ninja" and "Hunter" up to level 7. , using SP, let's level up "Active Physique" to level 6... no, let's make that 7. Nothing bad would come of increasing my base might.

There are 7 points remaining. What else should I invest in?6577 If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading 6577 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content6577 !

"Shadow Master" is currently at level 5, so I might use them to level up "Shadow Manipulation" to level 5. The high the level of the skill, the more SP I'll be saving when the skill level increases due to the occupation level. Suddenly, my eyes land on the skill at the bottom of the skill list.

"Mental Distress Resistance LV 4."

It is an advanced skill that was derived from "Stress Resistance" when it reached level 10.

Because it integrated "Fear Resistance" and "Aberration Resistance", it might be a skill than can allow its user to withstand any type of mental damage.

(Maybe this is also effective against "Enchantment" and "Brainwashing...)

If so, this skill could be a powerful card against the Student Council President or other enemies that we might come across in the future.

(Since its level is low, let's distribute the remaining points in this...)

Just as I am about to raise its level,

"Wan!"

"Hmm? What's the issue, Momo?"

"Wan! Wafuu."

When I turn around to look, Momo starts twirling around me while manipulating the shadows.

After she finishes her appeal, she sits down and looks up at me. I pat her head for now. Good girl.

“Wafuuuuu...”

Momo seems to feel comfortable from the touch.

“Um... does Momo want me to raise the level of ‘Shadow Manipulation’?”

“Wan!”

Momo nods in affirmation. Hmm, should I do it since it’s Momo’s recommendation?

No, don’t lose focus. There isn’t any disadvantage in raising “Mental Distress Resistance”.

“Wafuu...?”

Just as I am pondering, Momo approaches.

Stop, Momo, don’t do this!

Don’t look at me with such sparkling eyes! Don’t rub your body on me!

The mofu-mofu assaults me. Kuu... stay calm. Yes, calm down. I will never give in mofu-mofu. Never!

“SP has been consumed. ‘Shadow Manipulation’ has increased from LV 5 to LV 6.”

In the end, I couldn’t beat the mofu-mofu... I’m beginning to understand why female knights can’t beat orcs.

Humans are creatures weak to pleasure, and pleasure isn’t something that can be resisted at will. What a formidable foe Momo’s mofu-mofu is.

Let’s save the remaining 2 SP.

“Well then...”

After finished the distribution, I head to a place which had me thinking.

The fountain in the park where water has stopped flowing. I smile at what is floating there.

“Oh, there you guys are.”

“Furu furu. ♪”

Aka trembles in delight as well. Yes, slimes are floating on the puddles of the fountain. After the incident in the high school, we did not encounter any slimes, so this is a nice find.

“Enemy Detection” do not work on these guys, so we have to manually look for them. The number is... one, two, three... eight in total. This is quite a lot.

“Do slimes like to be in water or the shade...?”

The first slime I met was hiding behind the Home Center, and Aka was found inside an inconspicuous garbage can. There were also a lot of slimes clumped together in the moat of the rice field. I guess some monsters have places they like and dislike.

Anyway, we’re lucky to find slimes here. Let’s have Aka absorb them.

“Momo.”

“Wan!”

Slimes are hard to catch with bear hands, but it becomes much easier when using the shadows in the form of a net. The slimes don’t resist either, so capturing them is easy.

“No matter how many times I look at it, that skill seems to be very useful.”

Rikka-chan, who has been watching Momo and I fish for the slimes, comments.

She's crouching in her mini skirt, so the underwear is visible. White.

"It's not all that versatile of a skill."

"Is it not?"

"Yes, there are many limitations and weaknesses."

The effect range of the shadows and the shape or size of the shadows depends on the level of the skill. As is with the case with Momo and the shadow wolf, the shadows cannot be cast unless their feet are planted in the ground.

But I don't tell her about these.

"Hmmm"

Ichinose-san and Momo told me that it's okay, but I don't trust Rikka-chan completely yet. Mom and I work silently and carry the slimes near Aka.

Rikka-chan continues to watch the situation.

Meanwhile, Ichinose-san is sitting on a bench maintaining her gun. From how much she's concentrating, the aura around her is telling us not to speak to her.

Her appearance might be slightly out of place, but the atmosphere around her makes me imagine her as a veteran warrior. She doesn't look like a Hiki Komori girl who would throw up in front of people. If it's only her appearance, people would think she's a competent girl.

"And that finished it."

"Wan!"

Operation complete. All there's left is for Aka to absorb them.

Then, Rikka-chan calls out to me.

"Good work... By the way, onii-san."

"What is it?"

"I don't really care about it, and you can stare at my panties as much as you want to, but it's really easy for girls to notice that you're staring at them. It's better for you to remember."

Busted. Rikka-chan is surprisingly sharp. Of course, I apologize. Sorry.

"Now, Aka. You can have your fill."

"Furu furu."

Aka absorbs the slimes in the blink of an eye and doubles its size.

"Oh, it's now bigger than before. Slimes are amazing, aren't they. It's so big, but it still feels bouncy."

Rikka-chan is intrigued and pokes at the grown Aka with her fingers. Yeah, it's definitely bigger than before. However...

"It wasn't enough to revert back to its original size..."

In its heyday, Aka's body was slightly bigger. Maybe there weren't enough slimes. To be fair though, Aka did absorb a considerably more amount of slimes in the rice field.

"Furu furu."

Depressed.

"Oh, don't worry about it. It's okay. Even now, you're helpful to us."

"Wan! Wan!"

"That's right! Aka-chan is so cute and really useful."

Aka trembles apologetically, so Momo, Rikka-chan, and I comfort it with the best of our abilities.

(But it's truly not ideal for Aka to remain like this...)

Aka is now an integral part of our party. To survive in the future, Aka's powers are absolutely necessary, especially when we encounter non-standard monsters.

(That golem...)

The rock giant which suddenly appeared and wrecked havoc. It was simply a gigantic monster which derived its strength from its colossus size. Attacks from my Item Box and my Ninjutsus leave little impact on it.

(I was lucky enough to escape this time, but this might not be the case next time.)

It's too dangerous to rely heavily and have an optimistic view towards escaping. During the fight with the high orc, I was made aware of this fact. That's why we need to have countermeasures in case we fail to escape.

(What was that golem in the first place?)

Until it appeared, there was no response from "Enemy Detection" or "Hostility Detection". "Crisis Detection" responded at the very last minute, but it was too sudden.

(Also, it didn't feel like it "broke through" the ground.)

That... yes, that felt more like my Ninjutsu. An Earth-style Jutsu which allows its user to "swim" underground.

(If he could move freely beneath the ground...)

My body shivers. In that case, it won't be strange if it appears in front of us again. Somehow, I can tell that my hypothesis is correct.

(To be capable of ambushing others with that huge body... that's too much.)

There should be a limit to being unreasonable. Anyways, that is the reason why I want Aka to regain its power as soon as possible. Aka's defensive abilities would prove to be helpful when we fight it again. If I'm being more honest, I want Aka to raise its level and gain more power.

(A place where a lot of slimes are likely to be...)

Shade and water...

Speaking of which, there should be a sea nearby. A beach. There might be some slimes there. I can imagine the slimes moving along with the waves.

Since it's a beach, "that" should also be present, so there's no harm in going there.

The beach isn't that far away either, so I guess we'll visit that place. We haven't received any mail from Nishino-kun yet, and it's not like there's anything to do while waiting here. I shouldn't waste my time needlessly.

"Ichinose-san. Aisaka-san."

I call out to them.

"Why don't we go to the sea?"



And with that, we walk towards the beach to find some slimes.

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Chapter 105  
Source: Cipher  
Report

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“Uwa! It’s the sea!”

The moment she opens her mouth, Rikka-chan’s energetic voice echoes on the sandy beach. It was a few minutes’ walk from the park. We are currently on the coast near the City Hall. The soothing sound of the quiet waves and the pleasant sea breeze tickles our cheeks.

(How many years has it been since I last came to the sea?)

I haven’t come since I started working. Oh right, this is how the sea looks. How nostalgic. 4672 If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading 4672 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content4672 !

Once, a junior of mine and I had to work on a holiday. When our boss and colleagues sent pictures of them having barbeque near the sea, I thought of burning down the company. I had wished for their death.

Maybe they’re already dead. Not that I care.

“I knew this would be the case, but there’s no one around.”

“Yeah.”

Ichinose-san who is standing next to me agrees. She looks around.

“Neither are there any monsters... at least from what my eyes can tell.”

She says so with sharp eyes. From some time ago, she’s been strangely sensitive... As I thought, something must have happened between Rikka-chan and Ichinose-san.

“Yes, but that’s convenient for us. Let’s search for slimes immediately.”

“Yes.”

“Wan!”

We start looking for slimes. Soon, Rikka-chan who has been walking on the beach shouts.

“Oh, I found one! Onii-san! Here, here!”

A slime’s figure appears under a log near her feet.

“Nice work, Aisaka-san.”

Approaching her, I confirm that it is indeed a slime. Although the size is smaller than the ones found in the park, it’s still a slime nonetheless.

I capture it with the shadows and have Aka absorb it.

“Furu furu♪”

It was the right choice to come to the sea. To think we’d find one so soon.

“Kudou-san, there’s one over here as well!”

“Oh, found another one. Wow, there are a lot.”

“It’s true...”

This is great. There are a lot of slimes on the beach, floating back and forth along with the waves. They look like jellyfish floating in water.

Although I go near them, they don't try to escape. I wonder if these guys are really suited to survive in the wild.

(Is Aka the unusual one?)

All the slimes I've encountered so far except for Aka have behaved this way. None of the slimes bothered to move like Aka.

Now that I think about it, Aka is of different color compared to the other slimes. Also, although it's a monster, it didn't hesitate to approach me, a human. The more I think about it, the more Aka seems different from the other slimes.

Such a word comes to mind.

"Furu furu?"

What happened? Aka stares at me and asks. It has slowly entangled my feet with its body. I laugh at my lack of alertness.

"No, nothing."

I say so while poking Aka's surface with my finger. Punipuni.

That's right. Aka will be Aka no matter what. Regardless of how irregular Aka is, it is still an important teammate of ours.

"Wanwan!"

"Furu furu♪"

The appearance of Momo walking with Aka on her back is very cute.

"Well then."

Although I'm also searching for slimes, there's something else I'm looking out for.

After a short walk, I find what I came here for. Staring at the huge quantity of "it" lined up along the breakwater, I smile.

- They're the wave dissipating blocks.

They're also known as tetrapods. They're huge blocks of boulder placed along the shorelines in order to attenuate and thereby dissipate the waves' momentum. I heard that they weigh around 2 tons even if they're only the size of humans.

Amazing.

(They should be more efficient to use than scrap cars and vending machines.)

There are also a lot of them here. A more powerful mass attack will become available. While stealing some glances at Rikka-chan, I store them in the Item Box.

(Time I level up, I'll invest a bit on the Item Box's extension functions.)

Additional functions became available once Item Box was raised to level 10.

Increase in the number of items that can be taken out at once, and the expansion in the area of effect. In addition to the wave dissipating blocks, these two functions would allow me to resist against monster hordes.

(But... this applies only to monsters of regular size)

That golem. Against that, raining the blocks down won't have much of an impact. To deal with that, I would need something...something with a much higher destructive power.

(An effective way of attacking... on a fly, I can only think of bombs or missiles.)

And tanks. Tanks are the physical manifestation of men's romance. (TN: romance, but not as in love)

If I'm told to buy either a home or a tank, I'll choose the latter. Perhaps. However, they're not available. Perhaps there will be some in the JSDF garrison, but even the closest garrison is quite the distance away from here. It becomes a different story with cars or motorcycles, but... three people on a motorcycle is too much.

(And even if I get my hands on some tanks, it's not like I can drive them.)

It might even kill me if I handle it poorly. It's impossible for me to use them proficiently on the first try like those light novel protagonists. Those things can only be used with sufficient training. With that said, there's only one other way.

(By raising the level of occupations and skills, I'll acquire some powerful offensive skills.)

In the end, that's the only answer. The only way to survive and not die is to defeat monsters and raise one's level. There's no other way.

--Really?"

Of course. There's no other opt--.

"Wait a second...?"

"What's wrong, Kudou-san?"

"Ichinose-san, did I voice out anything until this point?"

"Voice out...?"

Ichinose-san tilts her head and looks at me in confusion. So it wasn't Ichinose-san?

"But just now..."

Wait. To begin with, that voice didn't belong to Ichinose-san. It wasn't Rikka-chan's either. It's the voice of a woman I've never heard before.

"...!"

I look around at my surroundings.

-No one.

Except for us, there isn't anyone on this beach...

Did I imagine things? Was it a hallucination?

"Kudou-san. Seriously, what's wrong?"

Ichinose stares at me anxiously.

"No... it's nothing. Sorry about that."

"Really...?"

"Yes, no problem. Now, let's find more slimes. It seems like Aka can still absorb some more. Let's go, Ichinose-san."

"Eh, w-wait for me..."

I head for Aka and Rikka-chan, acting cheerfully to suppress my nervousness. After that, the search for slimes proceeds smoothly, with Aka absorbing more slimes than before.

But my brain has been ingrained with the “voice”, and I can’t get my head off the topic.

What was that voice? Whose voice was it?

Meanwhile.

“Haa... haa....”

Nishino and the others were running desperately in the shopping district. The reason was simple. Behind them were more than twenty giant ants in hot pursuit. The herd of ants relentlessly chased after them while making creepy noises.

“Damn it.... We were doing so well until the middle....!”

Nishino and the others who were moving along in the shopping district were attacked by ants again. Although there were many, Nishino’s

“Command” hindered their movement, and Shibata and Goshogawara reduced their numbers while trying to gain distance.

They desperately escaped by breaking out. It was going well until halfway. Unfortunately, the ants did not decrease in number. In fact, their numbers gradually increased until they were being chased.

(...and I have this feeling that they aren’t attacking us more than necessary. Are they trying to exhaust us?)

The ants might be cautious after seeing their kind being killed, but it was more likely that they were waiting them to run out of energy. This tactic was a basic of hunting. To weaken the prey before hunting it. He never imagined monsters being capable of doing that.

(Damn...I knew that they were clever, but I didn’t anticipate this to happen...)

Nishino tried to turn the gears inside his head, but the more he thought, the less he could think of a way to survive the situation.

What can he do? What should he do?

Urgency, fatigue, and fear gradually wore off their spirits.

Were they going to die? In this half-baked manner?

(Don’t joke with me! Damn! Damn! Think! Think!)

He would absolutely not give up. Their eyes of Shibata and Goshogawara running behind him were not dead yet either. He managed to hold his heart back from breaking apart and continued to run like a madman. In the process of doing so–

“Hey! Over here!”

He heard a voice. It was from a man.

“!?”

There was a vacant building when he looked over. A man was waving at them from the window on the second floor.

“Come here! You just have to manage to come here!”

(Who is it? .... No, anyone is fine at this point....)

Nishino and the others were already at their limits, both mentally and physically. They had no other choice.

They decided to aim for the vacant building.

"Ha... haaa... haa..."

When Nishino, Shibata, and Goshogawara entered the building, the giant ants flew in as well. There were five men inside already, including the one who just waved at them.

(What's that?)

They held a certain something in their hands. They were about the size of plastic bottles, with yellow barrels and gun-like handles.

"Ok! Do it! SHOOOOOT!!"

Along with the signal, they released it at the invading ants. White smoke envelops the ants.

"Gyiiiiiiiiii!"

Were the ants screaming? The ants were screeching in pain one after another inside the smoke. Nishino eyes opened wide upon seeing what was going on.

"What's that?"

Nishino looked towards the man who invited them. He was a middle-aged man with glasses. His mustache, shirt, and the tobacco in his mouth matched well.

"They're magnum blasters. It's a bazooka-type insecticide. It's originally used against flies and the like, but we figured out that they work well against the ants. We carry it around when we go outside."

"Outside...?"

"Okay! The ants' movements have slowed down! Brothers! Tear them apart!"

""Uooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!""

When the ants slowed down, the men hacked at them with hatchets and axes. The ants that were affected had their numbers slowly reduced.

"Kisshikishi."

"Kishkishikishi."

"Kishishishi."

"Kishishishishishi!"

The remaining ants were quick to act and immediately turned around to withdraw.

"We survived?"

When Nishino muttered so, the middle-aged man standing nearby laughed satisfactorily while exhaling a smoke of cigarette.

"Seems like it. It sure was dangerous for you, boy."

"Eh... ah, yes. Thank you for helping us..."

Nishino bowed his head towards the middle-aged man who saved them.

"Hey, you have decent manners considering your appearance... Oh, is that a prejudice? My bad."

"Ah, it's fine. I'm used to being judged because of my appearance."

“Is that so? Oh, I haven’t introduced myself yet. My name is Fujita Soichiro. I’m an employee in a government office.”

“Government office...?”

“Well, since we can’t talk peacefully here, let’s head back. Hey, everyone! We’re going back! And don’t forget to pick up the stones! If you don’t, Kamome-chan would be really noisy.”

The man with the beard gave out swift instructions. Nishino sat down while watching them. After coming out of the plight, a sense of fatigue washed over them.

(It’s better to follow these guys for now...)

Thus, Nishino and his team survived the predicament and followed the men to the City Hall.

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Chapter 106

Source: Cipher

Report

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Several tens of minutes later

Nishino and his company arrived safely at the city hall.

(It’s amazing...)

The first thing he noticed was the huge barricade. Made of cars, chairs, tables, and other things gathered together, the barricade surrounded the city hall and was solidified with soil.<sup>2588</sup> If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading <sup>2588</sup> from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content<sup>2588</sup> !

The barricade’s height was tall enough, and there were holes dug on the ground here and there. It was enough to function as defense against even monsters.

(It would’ve been impossible to build this with human hands alone...)

It was still the fifth day since the world started overflowing with monsters.

Even if they started building the barricade from day one, it was still impossible to build such a brilliant defense structure in five days. All things considered, there was only one possibility.

(Was it made with some type of skill...?)

Nishino was reminded of the twin siblings of President Igarashi. They had skills which allowed them to create fire and rock from their hands. It wouldn’t be unusual if there was someone that had the skill to manipulate the soil.

“Hey, we’re back!”

Fujita who was at the very front waved his hand. Then, Nishino saw the figure of someone at the rooftop of the office building waving in response. That seemed to be some type of signal.

“Okay, let’s go in.”

(The place seems larger than expected.)

While thinking about such things, Nishino and the others stepped into the City Hall. After passing through the barricades, they were at a wide parking lot. However, there were no cars. Instead, there were temporary tents and toilets that had been built.

From the corner of his sight, he saw men with weapons that were patrolling.

"Okay, we should be safe around here."

Fujita claimed while lighting a cigarette. With that, the men around him dropped down from where they stood.

"I'm tired."

"I can't do this anymore..."

"Really, my battery runs out so fast now that I'm old."

"Are we getting paid for working overtime?"

"Of course not, hahahaha."

They were laughing and chatting, but they must have been exhausted.

There were signs of fatigue on their face. Well, the same could be said with Nishino and his companions. Speaking truthfully, even standing was difficult.

The same was true for Shibata and Goshogawara who were standing behind him.

In fact, Goshogawara was muttering with a pale expression.

"Haaa... haaa.... logs..."

It was dangerous is another sense.

(But we shouldn't put our guard down just yet...)

Despite having received their help, Nishino didn't trust them yet. He also had to meet his other friends and contact Rikka.

(First of all, I should contact my friends with "Mail". Or should I first check the mail list and confirm these people's names? There's also the thing about contacting Rikka... Ah shit. I can't organize my thoughts.)

Fatigue and vigilance hindered him from thinking clearly. His vision was blurry, and it felt like he could fall down any moment and fall asleep.

When he arrived at this thought, he saw someone approaching them from the entrance of a building. It was a woman who appeared to be a secretary wearing suits and glasses. Her face would have been beautiful if not for the bags under her eyes and the sense of tiredness that she was exuding.

"Oh, Shimizu-chan. Good work."

While frowning for a moment at Fujita smoking, the woman called Shimizu immediately smiled.

"Thank you, Fujita-san. How was the result this time?"

"We killed quite a few monsters. There were twelve ants, three goblins, and five zombies. We had all their magic stones put into this plastic bag. This other bag contains food and daily necessities. We borrowed them from several untouched convenience stores and shops."

"Thanks. I'll bring a utility dolly later on. Oh, and tell me which convenience stores you visited. I'll ask other people to go there later as well."

She grabbed the convenience store bag with magic stones. The food would be carried away later on. Looking at the magic stones inside the bag, she smiled.

"It's quite an amount. You really worked hard this time. Well then, I'll hand these over to the mayor. There should be another level up with these."

"Yes, please do that. If it works, the range would increase and more facilities might become available. What happened to the others that went on an exploration?" (TN: Don't know what range he's talking about. Might be the range of exploration.)

"Ikeda-kun's group and Outa-kun's group have returned, but Kamome-cha-Nijou-san's group hasn't come back yet. She said she would go near the beach. Since it's her we're talking about, there shouldn't be anything to worry about..."

"I see... Sorry for asking for so many things the moment we came back."

"That's what we should be saying. It was our side that intruded upon you guys. I'll help as much as you need... Oh? And who are these?"

Her eyes land on Nishino's group. She finally realized their presence.

Nishino and his group readied themselves. Looking at them, Fujita smiled bitterly.

"As you can see, they're a group composed of students and an ossan. They came under our protection while we were coming here.

"Really... it must have been tough on you all. You guys did well surviving. You guys are safe here."

Shimizu approached Nishino and gently stroked his head.

"Ah..."

Nishino and Shibata were surprised by her gesture. Her actions were sincere, without any hidden motives like President Igarashi. Her sincerity was transmitted to them. Their face turned red.

They were high school students undergoing puberty. The maternity of the older woman easily melted their brains.

"Iya, it must be nice to be young..."

The middle-aged man, Goshogawara Hachiro (Age 55), commented while staring at the two from the side. His principle was "only women that has passed her fortieth birthday".

"Also, Shimizu-san, they all got proper skills you know?"

"Eh? For real?"

"Well, yeah..."

Nishino responded. There wasn't a point of hiding that. Then, Shimizu held onto his shoulders firmly. Eh? What is it? That was his initial response.

".... Captured new supply of labor force."

Eh? What did she just say? Her eyes were kind of scary.

"We welcome you with open arms. Welcome to the City Hall."

"Ah, yes..."



He nodded for the time being.

"Now, this isn't the place to talk. Why not get inside for now? We also got to explain what kind of a place this is."

"You're right."

"Well then, the three of you, follow us."

Led by Shimizu and Fujita, the trio went inside the City Hall.

The inside was much more organized than he expected. The people were also more likely and more controlled than the school.

"Sit however you want."

Entering the reception room, Nishino and co sat on the sofa.

"We would like to serve tea, but the situation is the situation. Please understand our predicament."

"No, it's fine."

Drinking water was precious. Nishino fully understood that they can't be wasted.

"It helps that you understand."

"You're quite well-mannered for what your appearance would suggest."

In response to Shimizu's comment, Nishino replied saying, "I've been told the same thing just before."

Afterwards, they formally introduced themselves again before Fujita went straight into the core of the issue.

"Now then, I'll be straightforward about this. Nishino-kun, Shibata-kun, Goshogawara-san. Do you guys have any thoughts about acting alongside us?"

The question was just about what Nishino expected it to be. As such, his answer was also what he already planned out.

"Of course we do. We were saved from a dangerous situation, and it would be relieving to have such powerful men such as you guys move together with us."

"Is it? That's good to hear."

"However... we were separated from our allies along the way, so I was hoping you guys would assist us with finding them..."

"Ah, but of course. Our side would also want to have more people with us."

"Thank you."

Nishino lowered his head. Fujita tried to stop him from doing so while lighting his tobacco. He also asked if Goshogawara wanted one, but the latter refused saying that he didn't smoke.

"Now, where should we start... Right. We should start with the most important thing."

While blowing out, Fujita said,

"First and foremost, monsters don't attack here."

"Eh?"

For a moment, Nishino didn't comprehend what was just said.

"What do you mean?"

He asked honestly.

"It means what you think it means. This place, the City Hall, is a 'Safe Zone' where monsters don't invade."

Learning about this information, the trio went silent for a good 10 seconds before crying out in shock.

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Chapter 107

Source: Cipher

Report

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"Safe...Zone?"

Nishino doubted the words that came into his ears. Shibata and Goshogawara must have been the same. They're making strange faces while having their mouths wide open.

"Yes, no monsters can come here. It's set that way."

"..." 16374 If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading 16374 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content16374 !

Unbelievable, Nishino thought to himself. Did it function like a "Save Point" in games? No, this man just said that it was "set" that way.

(A skill or an occupation that can create... no, set a safe zone...?)

Was it governance? Management? Or barrier? Various guesses were made, but there was no way to confirm.

"I see that you can't believe what we said. It's natural. I was like that at first as well."

The one who smiled was the secretary-like woman sitting next to Fujita, Shimizu.

Watching the mature woman speak in a calm manner with her legs crossed, Fujita laughed.

"Yeah. Also, Shimizu-chan panicked more than you guys. It's a lie!! You screamed so very loudly."

"H-hey, you don't have to tell them about this! And Nijou-san was screaming more loudly than me!"

"But Kamome-chan is cute, so it's fine."

"What do you mean by that! Are you suggesting that I'm not..."

At that point, Shimizu noticed the gaze of Nishino and the others. She quickly averted her eyes away from them. Then, she raised her glasses and fixed her posture. Betraying her heart, there was a tint of redness on her cheek.

"Anyways, what he said is all true. There aren't any monsters here, so you can rest without worrying."

"Um, how exactly does that..."

Nishino was not able to finish his sentence. Before he did so—  
BAM!

Opening the door swiftly, an old man walked into the reception room.  
“!!”

Nishino readied himself unknowingly. Then, he stared at the individual that just entered.

It was an old man with a good physique. He knew with a glance that the man’s age was quite high, but the atmosphere around him betrayed such a notion.

(I think I’ve seen him somewhere before....?)

Where was it? Nishino tried to remember, but his exhausted brain kept refusing and proclaiming “I don’t want to work anymore-degozaru!”

“Oh! So you’re back, Soichiro! Seems like you were safe. I was worried for you!”

“... Good work, Mayor Uesugi.”

With Fujita’s greeting, Nishino finally remembered. Oh right. This person is the mayor of this town. If his memories were correct, this man had won his fourth election this year. His strong looks and remarks as well as his solid political skills garnered the trust of the townspeople. His reputation and approval rate were said to be much higher than the governor and some mediocre politicians.

He was so impressive that some people thought. “isn’t it better to have this person as governor?”

“Ah, you guys should at least recognize his face right? This person is the mayor and is called-”

“Uesugi Kansei. Nice to meet you, young uns. And welcome to the City Hall!”

The major who was smiling looked somewhat like Fujita. By the way, he called them young uns, but he completely ignored the fact that there was an ossan among them. The 55 years old Goshogawara Hachiro felt slightly hurt.

“Um, mayor.... Why are you even here?”

“Because I was bored! I’ve been constantly at work in the office, so much that I felt my body was becoming dull!”

“You were bored...”

Sighing, Fujita pressed his cigarette against an ashtray.

“I really want you to understand. Do you know that we’ll be finished if some accident happens to you?”

“Umu, I know that. S’why I’m only walking inside of the building. It’s my way of thinking for the employees that are working for me!”

“Is that so.”

Fujita looked over at Shimizu, hoping that the mayor would open his ears and listen for once. She nodded and offered the convenience store bag she had set aside to the mayor.

“Mayor, these are the magic stones that we gained from this time’s exploration. Please take them.”

“Oh, this will truly help.”

Upon receiving the bag, Mayor Uesugi's mood become better.

"Now, I'm going to go cheer up the others. Oh, and Fujita, the bed is vacant right now. It's not a bad idea to converse with the young uns, but have them rest first. Well then. Bye!"

And then he left like a storm. For a few seconds, there was silence in the acception room.

"...He's one hell of a peson..."

"Yeah, he is."

"So about the continuation of our discussion..."

"Wait a moment."

Fujita stopped Nishino with his hands.

"We'll put our conversation on hold for now. You guys should sleep first."

"Eh? But..."

It was too half-baked. He hadn't heard enough information yet. More like, he hadn't virtually learned anything at all. Nishino thought so, but exhaustion suddenly washed over him, making him dizzy.

"Tsu..."

"A-are you okay, Nishino-san?"

Shibata who was beside him supported him.

"Look at you now. Don't push yourself too much. You body was a its limit a long time ago... Well, it's partially my fault that you didn't get to rest immediately. Sorry about that."

"No... it's not something Fujita-san should apologize for..."

"Regardless. Please have some rest first. We can talk later."

"..."

He had no choice but to say yes. Nishino obediently followed Fujita's words. Thereafter, they were guidd to the napping room. Although the beds were cheap because they were for workers, the comfort of the beds after not using for several days was enough to put them to sleep.

Several hours later.

The sun was setting and the evening was coming. Nishino woke up.

(I slept for around three hours...)

Looking next to him, he saw Shibata and Goshogawara still asleep. To be honest, he hadn't had enough sleep either, but he felt like it was too wastful to spend his time sleeping. As there was noone around him, he decided to do what he had to do.

"Status open."

Nishion opened is status plate and gazed at th "Mail" items.

(Fujita Soichiro, Shimizu Yuna, Uesugi Kansei... they're all real names.)

The names displayed in the address book were identical to the ones they claimed to be. Apparently, they haven't used a pseudonym.

(Either they aren't wary of us or they don't feel the need to be wary of us....

It remains to be seen.)

, he checked the undread mails. As expected, several mails have been sent from his friends. From the content, everyone seemed to be safe when they sent the mail. Apparently, they were mostly hiding near the City Hall.

(I'll have them join us here.)

Nishino sent mails to his friends saying, "Come here while pretending that you guys found this place by chance. "

Fujita had promised to cooperate in searching for his friends. In that case, they shouldn't be mistreated when they arrive here.

( up is Rikka)

He also sent a mail to her. The meeting time had already long passed. A mail had arrived from Rikka, asking what happened. He sent a reply, answering why his reply was late, wher he was, and what he knew about the situation.

(Safe Zone...)

From the conversation earlier between Fujita and the mayor, it was likely that the mayor has a skill to create a Safe Zone.

(The mayor.... Does it have to do with governance or politics?)

Nishino recalled his initial list of occupation that he could obtain. He chose "Commander" in order to survive, but there were other options such as "Adventurer", "Student", "Chairman", and "Politician".

He had initially dismissed some of these thinking, "In this kind of world?", but if his guess was right, the professions that were irrelevant to fighting monsters also should have some important skills that could ensure survival. Maybe.

Since he couldn't verify his hypothesis himself, he had to ask others. This was an area of research for the future.

(This should do for now... Now, should I call someone....hm?)

He suddenly noticed the small table beside his bed.

"Rice balls?"

A plate of rice balls and a bottle of tea were on the table. There was also a memo underneath the plate.

- There isn't any poison, so you can eat without worrying. Fujita.

Such words were written on the paper. What was this man thinking? Be more vigilant! Be more wary! Be more suspicious!

(If he's like this, I would look like a fool for worrying so much.)

No, his behavior was not the wrong one. In this situation where one wouldn't know when others will come at his or her neck, it is wrong to trust others so easily.

Even so-

Gurururu.

His stomach rumbled.

"..."

Nishino brought the rice ball to his mouth. It was filled with salted Japanese plum (umeboshi). It was not particularly delicious. Those in convenience stores were actually better than this. Nevertheless-

(Really... all this is making me go out of tune)

His mouth was full before he noticed. The taste strangely penetrated his heart.

Fujita was in the parking lot, thinking about the teenage boys and the ossan that he brought back a few hours ago.

(That boy is carrying quite a bit on his shoulders....)

He wasn't trusted. The other side was suspicious of him. That much he noticed quickly.

(Despite being a high-school student...)

Those eyes weren't what kids should have. He didn't know what happened to them, but the past five days must have been quite the hellish experience. He was glad he saved them, but he was at the same time filled with a sense of helplessness.

(I want to do something for them but...)

There was nothing he could do if they didn't open their heart first. The only way to resolve this issue was to slowly build trust by confronting them openly. He had promised to search for their friends, so he could start from there.

"Fujita-san, do you have some time?"

"N? What is it?"

From the barricade, a man who was patrolling called out to him.

"No, it's just about two girls who want to enter."

"Just let them come in. Things like this, do you really need to report to me?"

"It's just that they had weapons, and they asked me 'Is there a student named Nishino-kun here?' If I'm not mistaken, one of the guys that Fujita-san brought in the morning had that name right...?"

"Say that first!"

As soon as he heard that Fujita started to dash. There were two girls that were coming down from the barricade. Both of them were quite pretty. One of the girls had a gal's appearance, with her blond hair made into side-tails. She was probably a high-school student judging from her uniform. She was carrying a backpack, and a hatchet was hanging from her waist.

The other girl had pink hair and appeared more mature. She wasn't wearing any uniform. Rather, she was wearing plain jeans and a hoodie, something men often wore. The most noticeable thing was the ridiculously big rifle on her back. Where did she even get that?

(They have weapons... meaning these girls possess skills as well?)

However, it wouldn't be wise to take their weapons away by force. Fujita wanted to avoid stimulating them as much as possible.

"Are you guys the ones that are claiming that they are acquainted with Nishino-kun?"

"That's right! This means that Nisshi must be here. Ah, thank God."

"They're currently resting in the napping room. If you want, I can guide you guys, uh--"

"It's Rikka. Aisaka Rikka, pleased to make your acquaintance. Hey, you too, onii-Natsun."

"I-I'm Ichinose Natsu. Nice to meet you."

"Aisaka-chan and Ichinose-chan, right? I'm Fujita Soichiro. Nice to meet you."

The two girls bow their head at Fujita's introduction.

"Then let us head to where Nishino-kun is."

Thinking about how he could fulfill his promise earlier than expected, Fujita led the two towards the napping room.

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Chapter 108

Source: Cipher

Report

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Three people were wandering inside the City Hall. Rikka was raising exclamations like Hoo~ and Hee~ while touring the City Hall.

"So the interior of a City Hall looks like this. It's my first time seeing it in person."

After all, it wasn't a place where high-school students would be familiar with. In fact, even regular adults wouldn't visit the City Hall unless it had to do with family registration or inheritance.

"Well, that's a given considering young lady's age. The first time I came here was around ten years ago in order to register my number."8168 If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading 8168 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content8168 !

"Hmm. How old is Fujita-san?"

"Ossan."

"Wait, Ricchan. That's rude."

"Ahahahaha! It's fine, it's fine. For students your age, I am indeed an ossan!"

Fujita who didn't seem particularly offended laughed wildly. Taking out a tobacco from his breast pocket, he asked for permission from the two before lighting it up.

"Isn't smoking banned in a government office?"

"Do you think there's someone to care about it at this point?"

"True."

"We're almost where Nishino-kun is. Follow me."

While watching Fujita guiding them in front, Rikka spoke to Ichinose softly so that only they could hear.

"... We were able to somehow infiltrate inside, 'onii-san'."

"Yes, but for now, I'm Natsun, 'Aisaka-san'."

Having said that, she... no, "I" grinned.

We were on the shore a short distance away from the City Hall. The work of handing slimes over to Aka went smoothly, and Aka was able to regain its former strength.

"Aka-chan became bigger."

"Indeed."

I don't see any more slimes around, so this much should do. I open my status and look at the party member list at the bottom.

Aka

Mimic Slime LV5

Its level has went up compared to before. So Aka could gain experience by taking in other slimes.

"Aka, how does your body feel?"

"Furu furu ♪"

It seems to be in a good condition. Its size is twice what it was before, and it's shaking itself vigorously. In addition, the level of Aka's mimicry has improved along with its level.

Mimicking living creatures is still impossible, but it can transform into complex machines such as motorcycles and cars. While there is a limit to the operating time, one could drive it without a problem.

Nevertheless, due to the restriction in size, Aka can only mimic motorcycles and minicars. But that would be more than enough, as it doesn't seem to require fuel.

"Well, it has been quite some time. Aisaka-san, did you get a mail from Nishino-kun?"

"Hmm, nothing has come yet. Really, I wonder what happened."

He is either being attacked or chased by monsters... they must be in a situation where they don't have the leeway to contact us. He should be alive since his name is still on the contactable list...hm? This is...?

"Both of you, come over here for a bit."

"N? What is it, onii-san?"

"Did something happen?"

"'Enemy Detection' is reacting. Someone will come shortly."

I hold their hands and hide ourselves along the edge of the shore.

"They're..."

A group of four consisting of both men and women has appeared. And they're people I recognize.

(... Kudou-san, are you acquainted with them?)

Ichinose-san who is beside me asks quietly.

(Well, yeah... they were my colleagues at my company.)

Those that are walking on the sandy beach were originally colleagues of mine. There's Nijou-san and Shikauchi-san... how nostalgic. It has only been five days, but it feels like it has been a long time. But why are they here?

".... Hey, as I thought...."

"...I wonder?...But....senpai.... presence..."

"Can..... return.....City Hall...."



“....then....”

It's slightly difficult to listen. Are they trying to find something? Something like a ship? Since that stupidly huge golem is nearby, are they trying to head towards an uninhabited island?

(Among the four, it looks like one of them is an employee from the City Hall)

(You can tell?)

(Yes, we've met several times.)

Due to the nature of my job, I had to visit the City Hall a few times. At those times, that staff member always welcomed me kindly. The person is equipped with a yellow helmet and a scoop shovel.

(That's good, onii-san. Your colleagues are alive.)

(Well, yeah...)

I answer appropriately, but to be honest, I don't feel anything.

(Most likely because it doesn't matter to me.)

Just like that time in the shopping mall, anything that doesn't interest me is of no concern to me either.

-Being close to one person rather than many others.

Unlike my colleagues who I interacted with just because I had to, Momo, Aka, and Ichinose-san are much more precious to me. If I have to choose between the lives of my colleagues and the life of Ichinose-san, I would undoubtedly decide on the latter.

(Oh, they're going back.)

(Yeah.)

So they weren't able to find what they were looking for. Nijou-san appears somewhat disturbed. In the end, they didn't notice us. They were talking about the City Hall, so maybe they have set up a base there.

(The City Hall.)

I just observed from the rooftop of the building, but I felt many signs of life congregated towards that direction. In addition, there were moats and barricades around the City Hall, so it should be able to function well as a base against monsters.

(But only if they're dealing with regular monsters.)

Against the high orc, the dark wolf, and the stupidly large golem, that level of defense would not suffice. They would destroy them through pure strength.

(Even so, something is drawing my attention...)

Not my colleagues, but the staff from the City Hall. I stare at that person.

(As I thought, I sense something 'weird' from that individual...)

It is different from the bad feeling that I get from "Enemy Detection" and "Crisis Detection".

How should I describe this... The air around him makes me strangely.... strangely relaxed... no... It's more the fact that I don't feel any "bad feelings" from that person at all. Yup, that's the accurate description.

Although it sounds off, that's how it feels.

"Kudou-san, what's wrong?"

"Ah, nothing... I was just contemplating..."

"?"

Ichinose-san tilts her head. This time, Rikka-chan raises her voice.

"Ah, guys, Nisshi has sent a 'Mail' to me."

"!"

Both Ichinose-san and I turn towards her.

"Really?"

"Yes, wait a second, I'll read it out loud."

She fixes her eyes at the status plate in front of her.

"Etto, lemme see... 'Rikka, sorry for the late notice. I was in a situation where I couldn't contact anybody. But I'm fine now. I'm currently at the City Hall along with Shibata and the ossan, Goshogawara. We were saved by someone from the City Hall when we were getting chased by monsters, so we decided to move along with them. The employees here have quite the high levels. Also, while I don't know how much of this is true, the people here are claiming that the place is a Safety Zone devoid of monsters. I can't ignore this information. I need to know more. If you're near here, please come to the City Hall. Let's meet up here. I've already talked to them about you and the others, so you shouldn't have any problem coming in. In addition, there are a lot of ant type monsters around the shopping district. There are many of them, so please be careful. If you meet them, immediately run away without hesitating. I hope you and those collaborating with you can arrive here safely. I wish you luck.'"

Rikka breathes out after reading the mail in one breath. Although the text is long, it is simple and easy to understand. As expected of Nishino-kun's mail. It's miles better than certain spam mails.

"...(Stare)..."

"What is it, Ichinose-san?"

"Nothing..."

Ichinose-san is excessively sharp at times.

"A-anyways, it's a good thing that Nishino-kun is safe."

"Yes, I'm relieved."

Rikka-chan pats her chest in relief. Unlike me, she appears to be genuinely happy.

"But there are several things written here that grab my attention."

"Yes..."

Ichinose-san nods. A herd of ant monsters. A Safety Zone. The truth behind Nishino-kun's information is yet to be confirmed, but I can't ignore these. I turn towards the girls.

"Let us go to the City Hall."

There is no loss in investigating. Gather information is important. However, before that, I continue talking.

"Only Aisaka-san and I will be participating. Ichinose-san should be with Momo at a building near the City Hall."

"Hm? What do you mean? Aren't we all going together?"

A question mark manifests on top of Rikka-chan's head.

"Yes, I think we should move separately this time around."

"Why? From what I heard, Natsun has a skill which makes it hard for others to detect when inside buildings. Wouldn't it be better if we are together?"

Rikka-chan isn't necessarily wrong per say. Ichinose-san's "Cognitive Inhibition" is one of the most powerful skill when it comes to infiltration and collection information. Nonetheless...

"It... won't work."

Ichinose-san and I look down in apology.

"So I'm asking why?"

"Ichinose-san... can't navigate through crowds."

"....Wut?"

"For you information, if she interacts with a crowd for an extended period, she throws up."

And magnificently too.

"So it's impossible."

I avert my eyes away from Rikka-chan. Ichinose-san endured at school under the context of finding Rikka-chan, but I certainly can't bet on her enduring for consecutive days. Her spirit won't hold. In the worst case, she might throw up something more than just glittery stuffs.

"Natsun?"

Rikka-chan looks at Ichinose-san. The latter nods silently. Rikka-chan looks up at the sky and simply says-

".....Is that so."

She accepts the explanation. Can't help it. I continue our conversation.

"Furthermore, when we infiltrate, I'll change my appearance to that of Ichinose-san's."

"Huh?"

"Kudou-san, that means..."

Rikka-chan cocks her head. On the other hand, Ichinose-san seems aware of what I am trying to say.

"Yes, I'm thinking of using the new Ninjutsu- 'Art of Transformation'."

"Art of Transformation". It's a new Ninjutsu that I just got, and the effect of the skill is just as what the name suggests. Using it once uses up to 15 MP, but it doesn't have a time limit. It gets undone when I want it to. When it is used for an extended duration of time, it is more cost effective than cloning. Nonetheless, there are limitations to the skill. Unlike Aka, my "Art of Transformation" cannot transform into nonliving entities. In addition, it's impossible to change to creatures like rats and whales that differ in size by a huge margin. Furthermore, I cannot transform unless I've touched the creature with my hands. Lastly, I cannot utilize the other Ninjutsus during the transformation.

"Please watch."

I activate the "Art of Transformation".

"Oh!"

“Wow.”

With some smoke and a Pomp!, my appearance shifts to that of Ichinose-san's. Not only is my appearance identical to her's, the proportion of other body parts are also completely the same.

Be that as it may, the only thing that changed is my body. In other words, my clothing and equipments are as they were. As such,

“Aka”

“Furu furu.”

I ask Aka to mimic the rifle that Ichinose-san has. Now I really appear like Ichinose-san... except the fact that I'm dressed in men's clothing.

“Amazing... you guys really do look alike...”

“...”

Rikka-chan nods as if she's impressed, and Ichinose-san stares at my disguised state.

“Yes, this should do.”

Nishino said in his mail to come with “those collaborating with you”. That means that he has realized that Rikka-chan is with someone else. From what happened at the cafeteria, it's likely that he thinks she's with Ichinose-san. As Nishino-kun is very calculative, he should have noticed this much. He would be less vigilant against someone he expected to meet rather than a complete stranger.

“Shall we go...”

“Please wait.”

Ichinose-san makes us wait.

“What is it?”

“Can you fine tune your appearance with the ‘Art of Transformation’?”

“? Y-yeah, I could...”

“Well then. (Murmur murmur...)”

“Oh, okay, okay.”

Under Ichinose-san's request, I make a certain part of my body slightly bigger. Looking at it, Ichinose-san nods in satisfaction.

Well, as long as she's happy I guess.

Oh, and by the way, I don't have any thoughts on doing erotic things using this skill. It would be rude to Ichinose-san after all.

“Momo, I'll entrust Ichinose-san's safety to you.”

“Wan!”

Momo responds cheerfully. Although it is only temporary, it still pains me to separate with Momo. But Ichinose-san needs someone to protect her if something ever happens.

I stroke Momo in sadness. After Ichinose-san and I stroked Momo for about fifteen minutes, Rikka-chan said in a flat voice, “Can we leave now?”

And so, Rikka-chan and I have snuck into the City Hall. Now then, let's start by gathering intelligence.

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Chapter 109  
Source: Cipher  
Report

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It's nice that we have sneaked in, but how should we proceed from this point forward? I ponder while watching the man named Fujita walking in front of us.

(I must find an opportunity to act alone)

Although my hiding skills are geared differently from Ichinose-san's "Cognitive Impediment", they are nonetheless very valuable in this type of situation. And it's easier to roam about independently.

(Should I use the restroom... As long as Rikka-chan covers for me, I could earn a lot of time by leaving a part of Aka and a tape recorder behind.)6332

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It's a classic tactic, but it might work. If it's simply pressing a button, a portion of Aka's body would have no trouble doing it. Furthermore, it shouldn't be unnatural considering Ichinose-san's normal behavior.

"By the way, Ichinose-san, where did you get that gun?"

"...."

"Ichinose-san?"

"Uh, yes? What?"

Shoot, I naturally dismissed it. Right now, I'm Ichinose-san. As I thought, this is hard. I should put up a proper act.

"Hahaha, Natsun, you're panicking too much. You don't have to be so surprised just because your name's called."

"A, hahaha..."

"Sorry, oji-san. This girl is bad with strangers, so she must be nervous."

Nice follow-up, Rikka-chan. Surprisingly, this girl can be extremely attentive. Unlike me.

"Ah, is that so? I'm sorry for acting overly familiar with you."

Fujita-san is convinced and looks apologetic.

"Ah, no... I should be the one saying sorry."

"It's okay, it doesn't bother me. Going back to the question, where did you acquire that gun?"

Fujita-san seems interested in the gun (Aka disguised) on my back. But there's no helping it. For an average person, it isn't something one could see in real life, not to mention acquiring it.

"Well, I got it with a skill."

Fujita-san narrows his eyes.

"Hee, is that a skill that can produce guns.... No, weapons?"

His voice is slightly low. I could roughly predict what he's thinking.

"Yes, yes. It's something like that."

"That's amazing. Then - can other people like us handle the weapons?"

As expected. A powerful weapon. In today's world, it's something that everyone would desire so badly that their hands might come out of their throats.

(But that is impossible.)

The items that Ichinose-san gets through Gatcha is designated as her possession. I wasn't able to put her items in the Item Box. Also, although I haven't tested it, there might be limitations in the usage as well.

Another problem is with the ammunition. Even if someone else could use it, the bullets would run out in one or two shots. But this isn't something Ichinose-san has to worry about.

(Was it ... "Ammunition Creation"?)

I heard from Ichinose-san before that she got a total of four skills from the Sniper Set. "'Long Distance Sniping", "Hit Correction", "Enhanced Penetration", and "Ammunition Creation."

"Long Distance Sniping" is a skill that corrects the attack damage as the distance from the enemy increases. Currently, her maximum distance is about 800 meters.

As the name implies, "Hit Correction" boosts the accuracy of her sniping skills.

"Enhanced Penetration" is a skill which increases the sniper's attack power. And "Ammunition Creation" is a skill which consumes the user's MP in exchange for the creation of ammunition. It is very good and burns little MP. This is also the reason why Ichinose-san was able to hunt down such a large number of monsters.

"Um, this gun is for my use only... Others can't use it..."

Saying so, I give the gun to Fujita-san. It's easier to believe my words if I let him confirm it in person.

(Aka, I'll be relying on you.)

(Furu furu)

"Try it. There's no ammunition there, but you can try pulling the trigger."

"Is it okay?"

With my approval, Fujita-san examines the gun.

"Sure enough, the trigger doesn't move at all. The other parts don't work either..."

After all, Aka is doing its best. Fujita-san who checks the gun for a while drops his shoulders. He must have had some faint expectation. He returns the gun.

The moment I receive it, I could feel Aka saying 'that was ticklish' to me. Sorry about Aka. But thanks for your hard work.

"I'm sorry that I couldn't be of help to you guys..."

"Nah, it's good."

Fujita-san puffs at his cigarette.

"Oh, but could you tell me what skill you have for reference?"

"Okay."

I explain to Fujita-san about "Gatcha" and "Hiki Komori". Ichinose-san has given me her permission in advance, and it isn't something that we have to hide like the Item Box. Although it is the job of a Neet, there must be some people like Ichinose-san that chose this occupation.

"I see, a 'Hiki Komori'... Well, some people have mentioned that such a profession exists, but I thought it was a joke. To think they can acquire such a powerful skill..."

So there are government officials who have the aptitude for such an occupation...

"1 SP per gacha... The risk is huge, but depending on their luck, people could get stronger skills and weapons... I see, it was a good reference. I'm grateful."

"No, it was nothing."

"But the children these days are quite courageous, choosing a job that sounds like a joke."

I could only laugh vaguely at his words. Ichinose-san, apparently you're quite courageous.

"By the way, what occupation did oji-san choose?"

Rikka-chan who is walking besides me asks a question casually.

"Me? I'm an 'Axe Wielder'. It sounded like the most powerful occupation among my options."

An "Axe Wielder". So there is an occupation like that. Additionally, it seems like they store their weapons in one location unless they're going outside or patrolling.

"Isn't that inefficient?"

Rikk-chan asks.

"We had a chaotic accident a few days ago. Since then, we've minimized the armaments inside of the government building."

"Hmmm, so a lot has happened."

"Yes, a lot has happened."

A lot.... They most likely had an internal conflict. And quite the ugly one at that. My olfactory sense which has been sharpened by "Enhanced Senses" makes it easy to imagine what occurred. But in the current world, this should be quite common.

We continue to walk down the corridor while chatting with each other. After a while, we arrive at a room that says "Napping Room".

"It's here."

Nishino-kun and his companions must be resting here. I pick up the presences of the people inside... Three in total. We enter after knocking.

Beds are lined up next to each other for people to take naps. There are several vacant ones, and three of them are being used. He is the one in the middle.

"Rikka?"

He turns around and mutters so. He opens his mouth in surprise.

"Oh, Nisshi, it's been a day."

Rikka waves at him slowly while laughing.

"Ah..."

Nishino gradually leaves the bed and comes near us. Then, he stands in front of Rikka-chan while staring her face.

"Don't disappear without any notice...idiot."

Rikka-chan smiles bitterly at the words that Nishino-kun barely manages to squeeze out.

"Ahaha... I'm deeply sorry for that."

"I was really... really worried."

"Yup."

"You don't listen to my words and you disappear without notice. It was really hard on me."

"Yup, I'm sorry about that."

"And what was with that emoticon. You're too relaxed. Use your head a bit more."

"Yup."

"Really, you're an absolute...idiot."

"Yup."

".....I'm glad that you're safe."

"Yes, thank you."

Speaking until this point, Nishino-kun gently hugs Rikka-chan. What a surprise. So he shows such a vulnerable side of him to his companions. It slightly changing my thoughts about Nishino-kun.

By the way, while I'm moved by the reunion, I lost my chance to sneak away by myself. Should I just throw up? Like what Ichinose-san would do?

Never mind. Let's just wait for now. The chance to move alone should come soon enough.

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Chapter 110

Source: Cipher

Report

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Nishino-kun hugs Rikka-chan for a while before suddenly separating himself from her.

"Uh... sorry about that, Rikka."

"Hm? About what?"

Nishino-kun seems flustered and his face turns red. In comparison, Rikka-chan seems like she isn't particularly conscious about it. What a difference in temperament. 7304 If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading 7304 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content7304 !

Rikka-chan appears to have a loose guard against men. While she pays attention to small details, she's quite insensitive in certain regards... There



might be a lot of guys that misunderstand her intentions. After all, her chests are huge...

"Iyaa, how nice to be young."

So says the ossan sitting on the other bed. He looks familiar... where have I met him?

Oh, right. He's the one that was pleading with Nishino-kun at the home center. So he managed to stay alive. On the bed next to him is the delinquent... his name's Shibata-kun, I think? So he's safe as well.

(Only three...)

As stated in the mail, the others haven't arrived. They're not dead, and since they could contact each other, they should have no trouble uniting. The bigger issue right now is...

"By the way, Rikka, where's the person that accompanied you?"

"Oh, I'll introduce you to Natsun....eh?"

Rikka turns and tilts her head. Then, she looks around the room. Only Fujita-san, Rikka-chan, Nishino-kun, ossan, and the delinquent are in the room. As for me-

"What are you doing there, Natsun?"

Rikka-chan asks while staring at the entrance.

Indeed. After entering the napping room, I hid my presence and slid back to the hallway. I have been watching their interactions through the gap of the door. Why?

(Well, this suits Ichinose-san's behavior, does it not?)

If it's her, wouldn't she say, "No, it's alright...I'll wait here..." and refuse to enter? At least I think she will. Right now, I'm disguising myself as Ichinose-san. I should act as if I am her.

"Certain conditions have been met."

"You have acquired the skill 'Acting'."

Look, even the skill agrees. Also, how lucky of me. I got a skill that sounds promising.

"Don't mind me... You can continue your discussion from earlier..."

"Nono, it's disturbing. Stop being shy and come over here."

I am dragged inside by Rikka-chan. Yes, yes. This is how it should be. Just like how Ichinose-san would behave. I enter after being arrested by Rikka-chan.

"Uh... um...."

Nishino-kun's eyes meet mine.

"It's been a while, Ichinose. Do you... recognize me?"

"Eh... umm..."

Eh? Nishino-kun and Ichinose-san are acquainted? Shoot, on this matter, I haven't heard anything about it from Ichinose-san. I panic. Nishino-kun sighs upon noticing my reaction.

"As expected, you don't. Well, it's true that we haven't talked much. Ah, but you do remember Ono, right? After all, in during our first year, you guys often had chats."

Ono? Who the hell is Ono? I take a few seconds to search my memories. Oh, the one with the glasses. Surrounded by delinquents, his otaku-like appearance certainly distinguished him from the rest, and yes, he was called Ono by the others.

(Even so, there isn't much that I know about...)

So there is only one course of action that I can take in this situation. I hide behind Rikka-chan.

"Eh, Natsun...!?"

Sorry, Rikka-chan. I can't take the risk of exposing myself by running my mouth carelessly. Hiding behind Rikka-chan, I glance at Nishino-kun.

(...Oh?)

For some reason, Nishino-kun has an apologetic expression on his face.

What does this mean?

(Most likely, it's because he turned a blind eye when Natsun was being bullied.)

Rikka-chan whispers to me.

(Is that so?)

(Yeah, Nisshi thought I was leading the bullies against Natsun.)

Oh, so it's something like that. I don't really get it. What exactly was the situation like?

(If I knew this would happen, I would have asked for more details about Ichinose-san's bullying incident.)

But then again, it doesn't fare well with me to force her to talk about what she doesn't want to remember... Postponing the issue has come back to haunt me in this regards.

Oh well. As long as the other side (Nishino-kun) doesn't begin an unnecessary conversation with me, it shouldn't be too big of a deal. He has a guilty conscience restraining him, so it's convenient for me.

When I start thinking about what to do, the door of the room opens vigorously. Everybody's eyes concentrate towards the direction of the door. The person who comes in is a glass-wearing woman that looks like a secretary.

And she's someone I know.

(Chief Shimizu...)

So she survived until now. Well, Nijou-san and the others managed to stay safe, so it isn't really strange for her to be alive. She still has those cold eyes.

"Hmmm..."

Our eyes meet.

I ready myself, but Chief Shimizu's eyes seem to simply ask, "Who is this?"

(... She didn't notice?)

Of course she hasn't. I am disguised after all. Nevertheless, this person can be surprisingly sharp at times, so I shouldn't let my guard down... Bluntly speaking, I don't like her.

"Shimizu-chan? What happened? What made you so flustered?"

“Haa...haa... what do you mean by what happened? I’ve been searching for you...”

She corrects her posture and raises her glasses.

With a serious expression, she says, “Fujita-san and the others, please come to the first floor. Mayor Uesugi has an important announcement to make.”

An important announcement? What is it about? Obeying her instructions, we begin to make our way towards the first floor.

Meanwhile--

Ichinose Natsu was waiting at the rooftop of a building near the City Hall. It was one of the tallest buildings around the City Hall. She was in a position where she could get a panoramic view of the surrounding area, including the City Hall.

With her skills, it was easy to break in, and with Momo’s skills, it was even easier to unlock the doors. In this way, she was able to enter without alarming anybody and monitor her surroundings.

“Nothing abnormal...”

She gazed towards the direction of the City Hall with her rifle’s scope. Nothing was out of place.

“Then how about this place... Oh, three goblins found...”

In the opposite direction from the City Hall, there were goblins walking around in the residential area. They were approximately 400 meters. It was a distance that she could snipe without any difficulty.

Tan. Tan. Tan. Along with these sounds, the goblins died after having their heads penetrated.

“Hm, bull’s-eye.”

Monitoring and hunting. She was doing these two simultaneously.

Monitoring was important, but earning experience was also important. She had to earn it when she could.

She preferred collecting the magic stones as well, but she gave up as it was not plausible in her current situation. The stones might be consumed by other monsters and wild animals, but that was that.

(If the monsters that come to eat can be hunted, I’ll hunt them down.

Otherwise, I’ll leave them alone and report to Kazuto-san. )

This was decided in advance after speaking with Kazuto. Strengthening other monsters and wild animals in exchange for raising their levels. After worrying about the pros and cons, Kazuto and the others chose to prioritize the latter.

“It’s getting dark...”

The sun fell and she was hungry. She took out a bottle of tea from her backpack and drank. It was something Kazuto had prepared for her. In addition to water and food that could last for a few days, there were also a sleeping bag, a flashlight, some replacement underwears, and sanitary products.

He was very attentive. Yet the best thing was...

“Momo-chan, come out.”

“Wan!”

Momo appeared from her shadow. ly, Momo was only able to navigate through Kazuto’s shadow, but after forming the party, she was able to enter Ichinose’s shadow as well.

The moment Momo appeared, Ichinose hugged Momo with a big smile plastered on her face. She immediately proceeded with mofumofu-ing Momo/

“Hmmm, Momo-chan is so cute!”

“Kuun, kuun.”

Her mofu-mofu techniques were as good as Kazuto’s. Momo exhaled in admiration and comfort.

“Look, Momo-chan’s dinner is also here. Kazuto-san also prepared for some you.”

Having said that, she took out “Ultra high-class premium dog food – Your pet can no longer escape from this taste”, which had a fixed price of 17,890 yen, from the backpack.

Momo was excited at this sight. Hooray! Her tails were swinging in joy.

“Fufufu. You want it? Do you want this?”

“Wan! Wan! Wan!”

Momo was staring at the “Ultra high-class premium dog food – Your pet can no longer escape from this taste”. Its taste was truly magical for dogs.

There was a legend about a disciplined dog jumping over fence for the food after smelling the food (company’s side of the story).

Such high-quality dog food was served on a plate.

“I’ll... have the green one.”

to the dog food, she had a special cup noodle worth 68 yen for herself on standby. There was also a vegetable juice prepared.

She boiled the water and waited for 3 minutes. The crispiness of the ramen was its selling point.

“Now, itadakimasu.”

“Wan!”

Zuru zuru, wafu wafu, gatsu gatsu.

The cup noodles tasted truly delicious as she ate while watching the beautiful view from the rooftop. Having her favorite Momo-chan made it even better.

(But... I think it would have been better with Kazuto-san and Ricchan...)

Eating with someone else made the food taste better. In just a few days, her tongue became accustomed to this.

(I feel lonely, so let’s send a mail.)

Pochi, pochi, pochi.

For the time being, I have been sending a mail with “No abnormality” written every other minute, but it should be fine to send another one to ease my loneliness. Although the number of “No abnormality” sent was already abnormal, she didn’t notice this.

Of course, Kazuto also had his Mail on manner mode. He would surely scream when he notices the number of mails that he received.  
(The two of them are doing their best, so I should work hard as well!)  
In this manner, Ichinose Natsu motivated herself in the wrong direction.  
“Thank you for the meal.”

“Wan!”

The trash that remained would be given to Aka for absorption. It was very ecological.

“Okay, I guess I’ll continue monitoring.”

As she looked back towards the City Hall from the rooftop, she witnessed an incredible scene.

“What...?”

For a moment, she thought she was seeing things.

She confirmed repeatedly, muttering, “Eh? For real?”

However, the scene in front of her did not change no matter how many times she checked.

“Momo-chan... I’m not seeing things right?”

“Wan!”

She asked Momo next to her. Momo was also surprised. She was not making a mistake.

“You have to be kidding?”

The scene blew her mind. It was impossible. It was incredible. What she saw was something incredibly normal- and that was why it was a strange scene to witness in the present world.

“The lights are one...?”

The light of civilization. The light generated through electricity was brightly illuminating the City Hall at night.

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Chapter 111

Source: Cipher

Report

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It happened as we were approaching the first floor. The hallway, which was dimly lit by candles and LED lights, blinked irregularly and were extinguished.

“Eh?”

I raise my voice. Everyone looks up towards the ceiling. Then, the fluorescent lamps installed on the ceiling turns on.

“Light? For real? We can use electricity?”12069 If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading 12069 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content12069 !

Rikka-chan reveals her shock. Nishino-kun and the others seem surprised as well. Deep inside, I am also quite startled.

There is a reason behind this.

In the current world, electricity cannot be used. While small household appliances that utilize batteries are still usable, facilities that require power supplies via electric wires or wireless connection are completely down. I have confirmed this many times on the way here, so there is no doubt about this. Despite this being the case, the lights are now lit in the City Hall. What does this mean?

(Is the private power generator still alive?)

I have not tried them out myself, but if they are indeed still alive, why did they not use them up until now? Were they afraid of attracting the monsters with the noise?

(Or do these things now work in a completely different way...?)

I glance at Chief Shimizu who is in front of us. She doesn't appear particularly surprised at this situation.

(Does she know what's going on...?)

I feel like talking to her, but it wouldn't fit Ichinose-san's character. How frustrating.

"Shimizu-san... is this perhaps...?"

"Yes. It is most likely just as Fujita-san thinks."

"I see, so that's how..."

Fujita-san nods as if he accepts and fully understands the situation.

Stop. Please stop nodding amongst yourselves. There are people here that are oblivious to what is going on, so please explain clearly for us.

"Um, Fujita-san, what's happening? This is...?"

As I am having such thoughts, Nishino-kun asks a question. Nice. Fujita-san turns towards Nishino-kun's direction.

"Now that you mention it, we were not able to finish our discussion."

"...?"

"The reason behind why the City Hall is a 'Safe Zone' where monsters do not approach. I have not explained that to you, right?"

"...!"

Nishino-kun's expression shifts. Rikka-chan and the others are also interested in this topic, and I am no exception.

Eh, you're willing to tell us? Legit? After all, I am here precisely because I want to obtain this information. I wait patiently for Fujita-san to speak, bracing myself so that I would not miss a single phrase.

"If I were to begin with the conclusion, this is Mayor Uesugi's skill. His occupation is 'Mayor', and he possesses the skill 'Town Development'."

Fujita-san teaches us about Mayor Uesugi's skill.

"City Development".

That is the skill Mayor Uesugi has. While it sounds mediocre, it has an incredible effect.

Summarizing its effect, it allows Mayor Uesugi to designate an area of radius 50 meters as his land. The land that he claims would then become an area where monsters cannot tread upon.

It seems like they have tested out the skill's effective area by luring the monsters. By raising the level of the skill, he could increase the amount of land that he claims and simultaneously unlock other functions. These functions included water, gas, boilers, electricity, and defense facilities among many others.

"When you arrived here, there was a moat by the barricade right? That's one example."

Apparently, a moat could be created by selecting the option for defense facilities. Also, there seems to be traps that could be used against monsters. When we arrive at this discussion, Rikka-chan tilts her head in confusion.

"Huh? I thought monsters can't come in here? Why are defense facilities necessary then?"

"It's a safety measure in case something goes wrong. If, for some reason, monsters make it in, it would be devastating if we don't have anything, right? It's something like that. Better safe than be sorry."

"That's how it is. Also, it isn't like everyone here is a combatant. For people like them, it's more reassuring to have physical defense facilities.

Regardless of the time period, people are always more easily convinced if they can see the actual thing for themselves."

"Hee~. You've thought things through."

Rikka-chan nods in acceptance after hearing the words of Fujita-san and Chief Shimizu.

"Securing drinkable water, strengthening defense facilities, and acquiring a source of electricity. With electricity, we can use all kinds of equipments that we previously couldn't."

The sound of "Ohh" could be heard from everywhere.

Certainly, with electricity, not only could lights be turned on, refrigerators and computers could be used as well.

(But how does the electricity work?)

Where on earth would the electricity be supplied from? Well, I guess saying that it's the effect of a skill would cut it, but if that is the case, then it truly is like a fantasy.

We arrive at the first floor. There are already a lot of people. Perhaps everyone within the City Hall has gathered here. There are around 70 people in total. I highly doubt that the number exceed 100.

In the front row, Mayor Uesugi is standing on a simple pedestal with a loudspeaker on his hand.

"Ah, let me first apologize for suddenly gathering everyone here. As for the reason why we're having this meeting, as you guys might have already figured out..."

As expected, Mayor Uesugi explains about how electricity has been recovered. For new members like us, he kindly proceeds with his explanation about his occupation and skills, finishing his speech by saying that electricity could be used after this round of level up."

At the prospect of using electricity without restraint, everyone's eyes shine in excitement. There are even some people that are shouting "Long live the Mayor!"

(...For the time being, we have achieved our purpose of coming here.)

We were able to learn about the City Hall and why it could be considered a "Safety Zone". Of course, this is assuming that we believe what the people here are saying. I don't think they're lying to us, so it should be safe to assume that what they're saying is the truth.

(Well, what should we do from this point forward...)

Should we stay here, or should we leave?

If this place is truly a "Safety Zone" where monsters cannot enter, it is quite an attractive location to stay.

(... First, let's meet up with Ichinose-san.)

We can decide on what to do after talking things through. Before sending her a Mail containing all the information that we have acquired, I first look at the unread Mails.

Wow, there are an astonishing number of them. The scroll bar at the side of the screen is extremely thin... However, since most of them say "No abnormality", I'll ignore them.

I quickly type in what I have to say and press send.

"You have received a mail."

That was quick! What a quick response! I read the content of the mail while thinking, "As expected of her".

"Understood. Then let's meet up. Can you leave quietly? Or should I go there?"

Rather than having her come over, it would be better for me to head over there. It would be bad if she meets a powerful monster while coming here, and it would be less risky for me who has a higher mobility. After sending a reply, I look around.

(Okay, let's leave while saying that I have a stomachache.)

Let's proceed with what I have planned out previously. It's the one where I pretend like I'm in the bathroom for a long period of time. Just as I am about to signal Rikka-chan...

(Hm?)

For a moment, I notice Mayor Uesugi on the stage.

"Thus, it was thanks to everybody that we are now able to use electricity! It may appear to be a small light in the grand scheme of things, but it is a big step for us! I ask of you all to continue fighting with me!"

Mayor Uesugi inspires everyone with a lively smile. There is something about him that attracts people around him. However...I feel somewhat uncomfortable as I look at his gestures.

(Is he hiding something?)

It was a faint feeling that I picked up because of "Observation" and "Enemy Detection". It bothered me and ended up distracting me for a second. It was then that somewhat grabbed my hand.



“...!”

Who is it? I look to the sides... and open my eyes.

“...Eh?”

A sound leaks out of my mouth. There, I see a woman who I am acquainted with. She stares at me while sniffing and having teary eyes.

“Sen...pai?”

She mutters so with a voice that almost disappears by the end. I can't be making a mistake here. Standing there is Nijou Kamome, a junior of mine during my time as an employer.

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Chapter 112

Source: Cipher

Report

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For a moment, I fail to respond to her words. Senpai...? Did she just call me senpai? Impossible. Currently, I should be disguised as Ichinose-san.

My mind becomes chaotic. However, the confusion that springs up calms down the very next moment. I calm down.

(So this is the effect of “Mental Tolerance”...)

It is a skill which I acquired during the escape from the huge golem.

Apparently, it seems to be effective even during times when I am simply upset or confused. What a life-saver. 11461 If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading 11461 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content11461 !

“...Umm...p-please release me.”

I act as if I am a nervous girl as I flail my arms. Nijou becomes flustered and releases me.

“Eh? Huh...? Oh, so-sorry! I got the wrong person!”

She apologizes with her head down.

“I'm sorry. There is this person I've been trying to find, and amidst the crowd, I felt a familiar presence, or should I say atmosphere and smell... Anyway, I felt something familiar from you so... I'm really sorry about this.” So it was her misunderstanding... Don't surprise me... I thought you saw through my disguise for a moment there.

Hm...? Wait. Didn't she just say something disturbing?

“What? What's wrong, Natsun?”

Rikka-chan looks over at our direction after noticing the situation. I quickly hide myself behind her, pretending like I am scared.

“Ah...”

Nijou reflectively attempts to stretch her arms to grab me, but Rikka-chan stops her.

“Who are you? Do you have something to say to our Natsun?”

As if she has understood the situation from my performance, Rikka-chan glares at Nijou while acting vigilant.

"I'm sorry. I'm not trying to do anything towards that girl! Please listen to my story!"

"To your story? What is that? I don't want to listen to someone who scared our Natsun. And you know what? You're being really irritating you know?" Rikka-chan is scary. This girl's tone is really domineering. Also, that killing intent isn't something a high-school girl should possess. It's what monsters should have, you know?

"Ah, um..."

Due to Rikka-chan's overwhelming presence, Nijou falls down. She's trembling more than newborn goat. Wait, this is bad.

(Um, Rikka-chan, please hold back a bit.)

(Eh? But she was trying to hard Natsun right? I'll hit her. No, I'll slaughter her.)

(Nonono. She hasn't done anything. Don't say such murderous words.)

She's seriously scary. Rikka-chan's eyes are devoid of light.

(If we raise a commotion, people would turn their attention to us.)

We're in the corridor and everyone else is looking towards the mayor, but any more than this would be bad.

(Ah, right. Sorry, Nats.. oh, it was onii-san inside... I completely forgot.)

This girl seriously forgot that I am disguised as Ichinose-san.

(Please refrain from forgetting such an important piece of information!)

(But onii-san's impersonation of Natsun is quite impressive. At first, it was normal, but it became seriously good from the middle...)

Is it from the moment when I acquired the skill "Acting"? As I thought, this girl is quite perceptive.

(Oh, I remember now. Isn't this person the one that we met on the beach? I thought she was onii-san's colleague?)

(You're right. However, I don't want to reveal my identity to her. Right now, I want to leave here quietly.)

(Okay.)

I squat down and extend my hand.

"Um...I'm sorry about this. Can you stand?"

"Ah, yes...thank you."

Nijou stands up and stares at my face once again. I avert my eyes.

"You caught the wrong person... I can leave right? Let's go, Ricchan."

"Yes."

I try to distance myself from Nijou.

"Wait! Please tell me your name! I'm Nijou Kamome..."

I know that already.

"I'm Ichinose Natsu..."

"Aisaka Rikka."

I introduce myself humbly along with Rikka-chan.

"Ichinose-san, Aisaka-san... I apologize. I didn't mean to startle you..."

Well, I was really surprised nonetheless. Rather, I hope she stops talking to us. I want to quickly leave this place after all. Still, Nijou seems to desperately want to hold a conversation with us. What is this annoying scenario...

"Um... This is sound weird, but do either of you know a man named Kudou Kazuto?"

That's me though? However, Rikka-chan and I pretend as if we do not know.

"To be honest, Ichinose-san's presence, should I say, is very similar to that person's, so I called out to her."

"Is it onee-san's acquaintance?"

"Yes, he was a colleague of mine who took care of me a lot..."

"Hee~ I see."

Rikka-chan glances at me. She isn't really that close to me. I don't remember taking care of her. We had a normal senpai-kouhai relationship.

"This is that person's picture. Have you guys seen him while coming here?"

Having said so, she takes out the group photo from the trip and points at me who is at the very corner of the picture.

(Onii-san, what a face you have there.)

(I was forced to participate after all.)

I wasn't able to move about freely, I had to accompany people in their drinks until late at night, and I wasn't able to meet Momo for several days.

It was truly horrible.

"I'm sorry to say this, but I don't think I've seen such a person."

"Same for me. Sorry."

"Is that so..."

Nijou's shoulders slump in disappointment.

"Then if you ever see him, please tell her that 'Nijou Kamome is at the City Hall waiting for you'."

"...I will."

When she hears our reply, her expression turns bright. What is up with her expression?

(This person. Doesn't she like onii-san?)

(...That's not possible.)

Rikka-chan whispers at me, but her conjecture can't be the truth. After all, it isn't logical to fall in love with someone who only had a business-relation with her. There isn't anything to like about me, and I don't remember trying to make her like me either. It truly didn't matter to me.

(Rather than that, please look over there. The mayor's speech is over.)

(Oh, you're right.)

It seems like Mayor Uesugi's speech is over. He gets off the platform and leaves the floor.

(Now what to do...)

To meet up with Ichinose-san or to gather more information. I'm slightly worried about the feeling I got from the mayor. Guess I'll collect a little more information before heading to Ichinose-san.

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After finishing his speech, Mayor Uesugi returned to his office. Sitting on a chair, he sighed.

“Well, how should I proceed from this point onwards...”

He took out a cigarette from his chest pocket and lit it up. He hadn’t smoke for a long time, but he really missed the taste. He looked out the window as he smoked.

(Amazing...)

The darkness of the night. Amidst the darkness, only one location, the City Hall, was shining brightly.

(It was the correct choice to restore the electricity...)

A ray of light. Wasn’t it a light of hope such as this that illuminates people in despair? In fact, everyone caused quite a commotion when the electricity came on. Their expressions became bright and their smiles returned. Seeing this light, more would gather at the City Hall as well.

Of course, there were some risks involved in this. The light could attract monsters as well as people. It was something so obvious that no thinking was required. Nevertheless, he couldn’t extinguish this light. It was the only source of hope.

(No matter what, we cannot afford to lose this.)

But that was also why he was worried. Was he supposed to tell his people about that “thing” which was weighting down on him?

There was a knock on the door.

“Enter.”

With that said, the door opened and the person who knocked on the door entered. It was Fujita.

“Thank you for your hard work.”

“Umu.”

Fujita sat down on the sofa.

“Didn’t you stop smoking?”

“Sometimes I feel like it.”

Saying so, he pressed the cigarette which was still half remaining on the ashtray. Fujita thought that it was a waste.

“The one good thing about the current world is that I can smoke anywhere now.”

“That isn’t something a mayor should say...”

“It’s not like anyone is listening other than you. And even if they do, it doesn’t matter at this point.”

“I agree.”

“So what is it? I assume you didn’t come here to chat with me?”

“Yes. Well...”

Fujita cut to the chase while scratching his cheeks.

“It was the same speech as before, but why didn’t you mention the next ‘condition’?”

Mayor Uesugi’s expression changed. He closed his eyes and exhaled.

(So it was about that...)

Fujita continued.

"You're not going to say you forgot or something right?"

"You really are a perceptive one. And you don't beat around the bush."

Kazuto felt discomfort from the mayor's speech. There was someone else who felt it as well. However, in Fujita's case, it was not due to his skill. Rather, it was simply his insight. As Fujita had known Mayor Uesugi for a long time, both in private and in public, he was able to quickly detect that something was amiss.

"Please tell me, mayor. What is the 'condition' for the next level up? What is the content?"

"..."

Contemplating for a while, Mayor Uesugi took out a piece of paper and a pen from the draw. He wrote some letters on the paper and passed it to Fujita.

"This is the 'condition' presented this time."

Fujita stared at the paper handed to him.

"I see now... This is... I can understand why you are hesitating."

He nodded and looked up at the ceiling while muttering so.

Mayor Uesugi's skill "Town Development" was not only different from other skills in its effects, but also in its method of level up. Normally, a skill's level could be leveled up either through the accumulation of experience or through SP. However, there was no such thing with "Town Development". Instead, "conditions" for the next level up would be presented. By clearing then, the skill's level would rise.

For example, the "conditions" to reach LV 2 were to secure 10 magic stones and 10 residents. Leveling up to LV 3 required 100 magic stones and 50 residents.

To slay monsters and secure magic stones, he didn't have to do the work himself. As long as his allies moved, he could be given the magic stones, thereby meeting the "conditions".

He believed that something similar would come out this time, but the "conditions" this time around far exceeded his imagination.

(This world... how much evil does it contain...)

Was it truly hope that was beyond the light? With a deep sigh, Mayor Uesugi looked at his status plate. Such things were written:

"Conditions for Area Expansion

-Securing 100 residents

Progress: 76/100

-Securing 100 pieces of magic stones (regardless of type)

Progress: 8/100

-Subjugation of "Queen Ant. Name: Alpa"

-Subjugation of "Guardian Golem. Name: Titan"

The above conditions must be met within 72 hours.

Remaining Time: 70:29:12"

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Chapter 113  
Source: Cipher  
Report  
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Their discussion continued deep into the night. As a conclusion, they agreed to reveal the conditions of the next upgrade to the core members. The total number refugees in the City Hall was 76 including the mayor and Fujita. 40 of them had defeated monsters and reached level 1 or higher, but only 17, including Fujita, could search and battle monsters properly.

"In any case, without their cooperation, we won't be able to clear the conditions."

Securing more people, scavenging for magic stones, and subduing the designated monsters. No matter how they thought about it, it wasn't something they could achieve by the two of them alone. Cooperation from others was essential, especially from those at higher levels.

"Let's talk tomorrow morning."4800 If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading 4800 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content4800 !

Members in the exploration team met every morning. They decided to reveal the conditions during that time. However, the expressions of the two did not change for the better.

In addition to securing magic stones and residents, they had to subdue powerful monsters. The conditions were clearly at another level compared to before, and they were uncertain as to whether everyone could accept this truth.

(If it was them simply refusing to recognize the reality, it wouldn't even be that big of a problem...)

However, it would truly be for the worst if these core members decided to abandon their current location. If that occurred, a second riot was bound to occur.

The first riot happened on the first day when the world changed. People panicked and many tragedies which he could not even express occurred on that day.

They had finally recovered until this point, but something like this happened. There was no doubt that some would be disheartened.

"...Is this Guardian Golem the one which Shimizu's reports spoke of?"

"Yes, there's no doubt about that."

Fujita recalled what they have told him while he smoked.

A gargantuan rock golem that could be mistaken as a building. Its fingers as thick as telephone poles, the reports also stated that it could not only crush and swallow buildings, it could also shred them and toss them around.

This wasn't some kind of an action movie, there should be a limit to being absurd.

At first, he interpreted the report as a joke - no, he wanted to believe that it was a joke, but he was forced to acknowledge the truth as several of his colleagues had witnessed the event.

"The other one is a Queen Ant. This one should be the leader of the monsters which you guys are going up against..."

"Indeed, I fear that is the case."

For Fujita, he was more familiar with this monster than the golem. Around the City Hall, ant monsters appeared in higher frequency than even goblins and zombies. Insecticides - He was the one who realized that the Magnum Blasters used against bees and flies were the ants' weakness.

Even so, he thought.

"So monsters can also have names..."

"That seems like to be the case..."

Queen Ant. Name: Alpa. Guardian Golem. Name: Titan.

It was his first time learning of monsters that possessed names.

(I can only think of a stringed instrument when it comes to Alpa, but if it's about Titan, it should be the giant that appears in Ancient Greek and Roman mythologies...)

Fujita was unexpectedly knowledgeable in that field. A rock giant type monster. Its name was Titan. Was this truly a coincidence?

"I can't pinpoint the exact location, but I can tell you that the giant is near us."

"How could you tell?"

"Look here."

Mayor Uesugi holds up his hand. Then, a three-dimensional map was displayed in front of him.

It was the "Map" skill which Ichinose possessed. She acquired it through a Gacha, but in his case, he acquired it when he chose his occupation as the "Mayor".

On the map, there was a blue circle with a radius of 100 meters surrounding the City Hall as its center. In addition, a red circle was encompassing the blue circle. It was a double-layered circle of red and blue.

"Aside from my 'Territory', there is a new territory that is being displayed. It's called 'Subjugation Territory'. It's a circle with a radius of around 1 kilometer. It also has the City Hall as its center. "

Unlike Ichinose's map, Mayor Uesugi's map also labeled the "Territory" which he owned. This time around, another piece of land had been labeled the "Subjugation Territory".

"How nice of them. So we have to kill it because it's around our territory."

"Hahaha, it's starting to feel more and more like a game."

Fujita involuntarily held his forehead. What was happening to this world... Monsters, experience points, level, and skills. This time around, it was a subjugation quest. He felt as if they were characters in a video game.

(It would have been for the better if I was the one with mental illness imagining these events unfolding...)

Nevertheless, the electricity illuminating the room, the smoke of the cigarette tickling his lungs, and the voice of the people around him were telling Fujita that it was unmistakably the reality.

"Anyway, let's wrap our conversation up. You should go rest. I will have you work tomorrow as well."

"Yes. Rather, mayor should do the same. It's already far past the sleeping time of the elderly."

"Don't be so cheeky, snotty brat."

Mayor Uesugi laughed. The tense air softened ever so slightly.

In this fashion, their private conversation was exposed.

"So that's what's happening..."

Listening to their story, I'm starting to understand the feeling of discomfort that I felt earlier.

The mayor isn't thinking of doing anything shady. He is thinking about what he can do for the inhabitants living here.

I can understand his predicament. They finally managed to bring back electricity, but a condition like this pops up. It's no wonder they're hesitating.

"However... what am I supposed to do after learning about this..."

I am currently eavesdropping on their conversation in the room next to where they are. While the door was locked, I was easily able to unlock it with a shadow. As such, I entered the room and listened in on their conversation.

Well, I only heard a part of it though. It took quite some time leaving without alarming Nishino-kun and his company. With the assistance of Rikka-chan, I somehow managed to move away from them and began gathering intelligence. Afterwards, I was curious about the mayor's behavior and ended up in this room.

I ended up learning about an alarming story. I can't see what is occurring inside of the office, but I can imagine from the flow of their meeting.

Regarding the mayor's skill and the conditions for increasing its level.

"The subjugation of the golem and the Queen Ant, is it..."

There should be a limit to how ridiculous things get. I only know limited information about the ant from Nishino-kun's mails, but I can say for sure about the golem. That thing is a true monstrosity. Its strength and size is monstrous in and of itself, and it can't be detected until it is right besides you.

It'll be a more plausible to defeat a high orc without using water... but it's not like that's easy either.

Regardless, they're planning of trying to subjugate that monster?

Impossible.

It'll be a different matter with bombs and tactical missiles, but we don't have those available. They lack both power and number.



“What happens if they fail?”

Will the skill’s level no longer go up? Does it get reset? Or does the skill get erased? They all seem possible. From what I have experienced in this ruthless world, the last one seems most probable.

Another point of notice is that they never mentioned anything about escape when faced with such a difficult mission. Most likely, the mayor’s “Town Development” doesn’t allow him to change the location of his base. Well, if it did, it would have been a cheat-level skill.

Even with the current limitations, it’s already quite an attractive skill.

“...I want it.”

If I gained this skill and carefully chose the location, our safety would be pretty much guaranteed. I have enough food supply that they would rot before we manage to finish them. Not like they’re going to rot though. We only need a safe location. In the first place, that is why I’m here gathering information.

Hm? Wait a second. I remember having the option of becoming a “Citizen” when I was prompted to decide on an occupation. I was confused about it, but maybe it could grow and become “Mayor”. It might be worth trying. The penalty imposed on those that could not clear the conditions for “Town Development”. If it’s resetting the level or being restricted from further leveling, it won’t be a big problem. However, if the skill completely vanishes, everything up to that point would disappear. In that case, I might as well use the people here to...

“...”

Thinking until this point, I stop myself. What the hell am I thinking? To think that I would desire for their failure. That would be going too far.

“Ah shit... my heart... Momo... I miss Momo...”

I scratch my head. Right now, I want to heal myself using her fluffiness. I was the one who suggested it, but as I thought, it’s painful to separate from Momo...

“Furu furu?”

Aka shakes and asks if I am fine. Sorry. I made you worry.

Let’s plan out what I should do. To stay or to leave... Or to observe from a distance.

“You have received a mail.”

“Hm?”

Ichinose-san has sent a mail. I wonder what it says? I read the content.

“Thank you for your hard work. How has things progressed on your end? If Kudou-san is acting on his own, please make sure you aren’t doing anything too dangerous. From what I’ve seen at the school, Kudou-san can do something pretty crazy when it concerns the safety of your companions... Momo-chan and I can’t help but worry about what might happen to you. Ah, of course, this is as a party member. There’s no deep meaning behind this. Please don’t misunderstand. If something occurs, Momo-chan and I can assist you, so please contact us.”

I-Ichinose-san...

I'm touched by the letter. I should work hard for her sake as well.

"PS: Momo-chan is sleeping next to me. She's soooooo fluffy!"

Damn it! That little-! My impression of her was just about to change when this happens. This person's personality really changes when she's sending mails. While thinking about this, another mail comes in. It's from Rikka-chan.

I told her beforehand to tell me when she can't hold back Nishino-kun anymore. This means I would have to return to them for now. I should just go rest for today. I'll leave the problems for tomorrow. To stay here and witness what happens or to leave. I'm tired, so I'll decide tomorrow after a good rest.

I leave the room and head towards Rikka-chan's direction. In this manner, the fifth day comes to an end...

Late at night when everyone has went to sleep.

The High Undead Dark Wolf Schwarz was standing on the rooftop of a building. He was staring at a point far away. There was light in that direction. It was a source of artificial light which dulled the beautiful night that should have been illuminated only by the stars and the moon.

"Hmmm..."

It was displeased about it, but he was not interested in the source of light. It was more concerned with a human that was there.

Kudou Kazuto.

The human who it approved of was in that direction.

"So he gathered a crowd..."

Its voice contained a bit of surprise. He didn't seem like a man who trusted others easily. Did something change?

"Well, that's a good thing..."

Regardless of how it was done, Schwarz had no complaints if its opponent could become stronger. Satisfied with its opponent's attitude, he turned back.

"I must also begin to act..."

If the other side was forming a flock, it must also form a flock as well.

The flock which it originally formed was annihilated by the humans, so it had to make a new one. To form the strongest flock that would welcome its turn. (TN: Didn't really understand what that meant... □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ □.)

"Fumu..."

Thinking until this point, it might have made a mistake when it destroyed the Death Knight which approached it in the morning. He didn't plan on becoming an underling, but if the other side was willing to come under him, he didn't mind accepting them.

Schwarz jumped off from the rooftop and rotated its body as it landed on the ground. Now, which direction should it head to? It had to create the

“What is this...?”

Then, the rock giant emerged from the ground.

Schwarz spoke to it without showing much surprise. No response was returned. The giant kept gazing down at it. Schwarz felt slightly unpleasant.

It was a warning. Schwarz was hinting at it that it would show mercy and overlook the giant's action if it left now. However, if it didn't...

"Ruooooooooooooooooooooorurururururu..."

"In the end, it is but a clump of clay. It could not even tell the difference in power..."

Schwarz was angered at its arrogance.

“Darkness” overflowed from beneath Schwarz’s feet. The “darkness” was so deep that it overshadowed the darkness of the night.

The giant issued a roar. Immediately afterwards, the giant's fist collided with the darkness.

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Source: Cipher

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It's the morning of the sixth day.

Chief Shimizu and Nijou are besides her, and when I look around, I see that the other women are sleeping as well.14220 If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading 14220 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content14220 !

Sleeping together in a large room. It really feels like a school trip. The only difference is that this isn't a trip. Rather, it is a matter of survival. There isn't any ticket to go back home.

I check my appearance and see that it's still Ichinose-san's.  
(What a relief that the effect of the "Art of Transformation" lasted even in my sleep.)

Otherwise, I would need to waste some time and effort. Although I cannot use other Ninjutsus while I am like this, this Ninjutsu might be the best when it comes to fuel consumption.

"Even so..."

I look around the room. Everyone has bad sleeping habits. Nijou's stomach is exposed while Chief Shimizu's hair, which is usually in the shape of a dango, is in a mess. It's something that cannot be imagined from her usual dignity.

How come a gyaru like Rikka-chan have the best sleeping habit? Also, the wonderful bulges can be seen despite a blanket covering her. They rise and fall as she breathes. Thank you very much. I appreciate the view for the time being.

"You have received a mail."

Hm?

"Good morning. Did you sleep well yesterday? Also, please don't stare at Ricchan (especially her chest) in a perverted manner."

Oof....

This girl is scary. She's too sharp. While exchanging mails with her yesterday, I was about to tell her that Rikka-chan would be sleeping next to me, but my skill and instinct told me that something would break if I did, so I left it alone.

"Hmmm.... Hey, good morning, Natsun..."

Rikka-chan opens her eyes as this is happening. She looks towards me while rubbing her eyes. It's refreshing to see her like this as her hair is normally tied into a side-tail. Also, she slept with only her shirt and underwear on, which was quite erotic. Thank you.

"Yes, good morning to you as well."

"...?"

Then, Rikka-chan tilts her head in confusion before slapping her hand with her fist.

"Right... it was onii-san inside..."

Did you forget the setting again? Well, she just woke up, so she might be still be confused. I smile and put a finger on Rikka-chan, a sign telling her, "You can't say that out loud".

"Un...sorry..."

She nods back and forth. Still half-asleep, she tries to bite my finger.

What are you, a chick?

I avoid her bite quickly by pulling back.

"I think others are about to get up."

I can see signs of Nijou and Chief Shimizu waking up. I was paying attention to them, so they shouldn't have heard our conversation. Even if they did, we can just say that they were hearing things because they just woke up.

"Ah? You two are already awake?"

"Hm... Good morning..."

Chief Shimizu and Nijou wake up. I bow lightly towards them. I'm supposed to be a shy person.

Rikka-chan greets them normally.

The four of us leave the room and wash our face in the bathroom. It seems the toothbrushes and cups must be shared. Well, it can't be helped.

Afterwards, we change clothes. I already changed mine, so I leave the room and wait outside. I will not openly peek at them changing clothes.

Rikka-chan told me that she "doesn't care", but you're just too careless. Be a little more modest. Boys would misunderstand your intentions. Also, while you might be fine, there are Chief Shimizu and Nijou that I also have to consider.

Nishino comes while I am sitting on a long bench by the hallway. I can also see the figure of Shibata-kun and... Goshogawara...san? When Nishino notices me, he waves lightly at me.

"Good morning."

"Ah, yes... g-good morning..."

"Where's Rikka?"

"She's still changing."

"Oh, is that so? Then we'll also wait here. Is that okay with you?"

I don't mind, so I sit towards the end of the bench. Nishino-kun sits next to me with Shibata sitting next to him. Goshogawara-san remains standing.

"Did you have a good sleep?"

Nishino-kun initiates a conversation.

"Ah, yes... I slept well..."

"You don't have to speak so politely... well, I guess it can't be helped. We are almost complete strangers to begin with."

"Yes, yes."

"But the situation is the situation. I would appreciate it if you could cooperate with me."

"Um... well..."

"Hey, you! Nishino-san has been trying to talk to you. What is up with your attitude?"

Shibata-kun glares at me as if he can't stand my attitude (acting).

"Experience has reached a certain threshold."

"'Acting' has increased from LV 2 to LV 3."

Oh, I did it. My skill level went up. As I thought, it's easy to level up when the skill level is low. While making a guts pose within my head, I cower while crying "Hiiiiiiii".

From the gun on my back, I feel Aka asking me if I'm okay.

It's fine. I'm just acting, Aka.

"Stop, Shibata."

"...Apologies, Nishino-san. I just..."

"Shibata, you're apologizing to the wrong person. You should apologize to her, not me."

Then, Shibata-kun walks to where I am and lowers his head.

"I'm sorry. I was becoming hot blooded."

"Ah, well... it's... okay..."

Oh, quite straightforward. I'm honestly surprised by his attitude. It's completely different from the condescending attitude he had towards everyone except his friends at the Home center.

"...(Stare)"

"What is it?"

"No, nothing..."

"Hmm... what a weird person..."

He has grown. I look at him with a smile on my face. For some reason, Shibata turns away while turning slightly red. (TN: I know the protagonist looks like Ichinose right now, but no thanks.)

"Nisshi? Oh, and Shibacchi as well."

Rikka-chan who has finished changing comes out of the room. Chief Shimizu and Nijou appear as well.

"Good morning, Rikka. Did you sleep well?"

"Yeah, I feel great."

Chief Shimizu and Nijou also give their greetings. After that, we move to the dining room together. Breakfast consists of sports drink and nutritional food.

"So little."

Chief Shimizu smiles at Rikka-chan's unreserved reaction.

Breakfast itself ends within a few minutes, but we exchange information afterwards while chitchatting. The talking is mostly done by Nishino-kun and Chief Shimizu. Rikka-chan and I mainly listen. They speak about what happened at the school and the events that transpired while coming here. Shibata tries to talk with me once in a while, but I try to ignore it.

(So Chief Shimizu arrived here after being attacked by that golem...)

Apparently, the golem attacked the place where I originally worked. I'm impressed they managed to escape from that. According to her, they escaped while the golem was devouring the building.

Nishino-kun is initially half-suspicious, asking whether such a stupid golem truly exists. However, when Rikka-chan and I tell him of our encounter, he finally accepts the truth. The discussion continued, but there wasn't much useful information.

A few minutes later.

Mayor Uesugi and Fujita-san enter the cafeteria.

"Good morning mayor. And you, Futjia-san."

Everyone starts greeting them after Chief Shimizu speaks up.

"Oh, good morning, Seems like everyone's gathered here? Impressive, impressive."

Mayor Uesugi returns our greeting. He isn't showing the attitude he displayed yesterday.

"Did everyone have breakfast?"

"Yes"

Chief Shimizu answers in our stead.

"Twenty minutes from now, we will have today's meeting. Members from groups 1 to 5 should come to the meeting room. Be sure that everyone is there. Tell the members that aren't here as well."

Chief Shimizu, Nijou, and some other people nod.

So they are part of the core members.

"What is this meeting about, Shimizu-san?"

Nishino-kun asks.

"Oh, I forgot to explain that. At this City Hall, members of the exploration team meeting twice a day, once in the morning and once in the evening, to share future goals as well as the results of the day's exploration. We didn't have a chance to hold a meeting yesterday evening because of the matter with the electricity."

"Oh, I see. By the way, is it possible for us to participate in the meeting?"

"Eh?"

Hearing Nishino-kun's request, Chief Shimizu makes a surprised expression.

"We also possess skills, so we should also be considered battle potential. In that case, I believe an exchange of information would be necessary."

He seems to be claiming that he is unwilling to obey order unilaterally.

Chief Shimizu should probably understand that as well. She thinks for a moment with her hand touching her chin.

"Yes, that's true. I understand. I'll talk with the mayor and Fujita-san."

"Thank you."

Thereafter, Chief Shimizu and Nijou leave the cafeteria. Rikka-chan opens her mouth after they leave.

"It's surprising that you're so cooperative."

"Is that so? This base has a lot of worth. It's not a bad thing to cooperate.

Also, Fujita-san and the others saved us once, so we owe them."

He brings up the topic of what happened previously at school and laughs sarcastically. Speaking of which, he was brainwashed by the Student Council President at that time. He seems fine now, but how did he manage to undo it?

A time limit? Or is the President dead?

"Also, I instructed other member of our group to gather here by today through the 'Mail'. If we all gather, our group will have 10 people including Ichinose-san. I looked around yesterday while the mayor was giving out his speech, and there should roughly be only 20 people here capable of fighting, among which include the woman named Shimizu and Fujita-san."

Nishino-kun's conjecture is accurate. According to the conversation yesterday, there are only 17 people here capable of combat.

“In other words, we would account for one third of the City Hall’s total battle potential. It’s a number that they cannot afford to ignore. It’s impossible for them to treat us like pawns...And it doesn’t seem like there’s anyone capable of brainwashing here.”

Nishino-kun laughs bitterly. He must have received quite a bit of shock from what happened at school. I feel an intense desire to survive and a desire to never be used as a tool coming from him. He might be more reliable like this.

(But the real problem lies somewhere else.)

Mayor Uesugi and Fujita-san will tell everyone about yesterday in the upcoming meeting. Depending on the result of the meeting, an internal divide may occur. In fact, this community might even collapse.

How will Nishino-kun’s group react? Will they cooperate and trust them... or will they leave... While pondering on this topic, Chief Shimizu returns.

“I received permission. Mayor Uesugi said that he would like you guys to join us in our meeting.”

“Yes, thank you.”

“Now, can you guys follow me? Everyone else is already there.”

We follow Chief Shimizu and leave the cafeteria.

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Chapter 115

Source: Cipher

Report

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We arrive at the meeting room which is quite spacious. It must have been previously used by the members of the City Council. At a glance, I can tell that the chairs and tables are of superior quality.

(Still, there are some people here who I did not wish to see...)

Near Nijou, I see some of my past colleagues sitting down. They are the trash that posted photos of having a BBQ party on Instagram after leaving all their works to Nijou and me. To be honest, I don’t even want to see their face.

Most of the people in the meeting room stare suspiciously at us. After all, except for Goshogawara-san, the rest of us are students. This includes me, who’s carrying Aka which is disguised as a rifle. Their reactions can’t be helped. 14366 If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading 14366 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content14366 !

Still, a few people’s expressions do not change. They’re probably the ones who were with Fujita-san when Nishino-kun was rescued. They have an aura around them that speaks volume of their competence.

(There is little doubt that they are the main battle potential among those that are present...)



Using “Enemy Detection”, I can tell that their levels are fairly high. They might be as strong as Nishino-kun and Rikka-chan.

(Even so, when it comes to my former colleagues...)

When I take a peek at them, I see them looking at us while smirking. They are obviously looking down on us. In addition, the way that they are staring me (ver. Ichinose-san) and Rikka-chan is unpleasant.

(Hm, now I get how girls feel when boys stare at them...)

I can tell even if I’m not as sharp as Rikka-chan. Uncomfortable gazes that feel like they’re trying to lick our face, chest, and body. Certainly, this is highly unpleasant.

... I should apologize to Ichinose-san and Rikka-chan later on.

(Oh, I remember them holding meaningless discussions about who would take down Nijou and Chief Shimizu. )

The two most popular people in the company - or so I heard - were Nijou and Chief Shimizu.

I listened to them from afar since I did not want to participate in such discussions. However, I remember them having such low-level talks. In the end, the two never bothered lending any of them an ear. Haha.

(Well, not that it matters now...)

The situation is the situation. It’s not the time to think about these things.

We sit at the seats in the back. Nishino-kun, Rikka-chan, and I sit in the front row while Goshogawara-san and Shibata-kun sit in the back row.

“All of you seem to have arrived.”

Mayor Uesugi opens his mouth upon seeing that we have all taken a seat.

Fujita-san and Chief Shimizu are beside the mayor.

“Before speaking about today’s plan, I would like to introduce some new members.”

Mayor Uesugi looks towards our direction. The others follow suit. Nishino-kun stands up when confronted with the questioning stares.

“While Fujita-san and Shimizu-san have already met us, I would like to introduce ourselves for the others. I am called Nishino Kyouya. Nice meeting you all.”

He gives a light introduction and bows. The stares move onto us.

“The person beside me is Aisaka Rikka. to her is Ichinose Natsu. The people behind us are Shibata Noriyasu and Goshogawara Hachiro-san. We arrived here yesterday after being saved by Fujita-san’s group. Although we are new, we wish to cooperate with everyone else and survive through these difficult times. Please treat us well.”

It’s amazing how he appears so adapted to such situations. Just like that time at the Home Center, Nishino-kun behaves surprisingly politely despite his appearance. Ignoring his true intentions, that is.

“Hou, I noticed this yesterday as well, but you’re really well-mannered even though you’re from the younger generation. Impressive. Impressive.”

Mayor Uesugi claps his hand. Fujita-san and the others follow and applause. Thanks to Nishino-kun, their first impression about us is positive.

“Um, I’m Aisaka Rikka. Please treat me well.”

When Nishino-kun sits back down, Rikka-chan stands up to introduce herself briefly.

Eh? But why? I thought Nishino-kun just did it for us?

With Rikka-chan sitting down, I helplessly stand up.

I breathe in deeply and put my back into it before saying,

“Oh, uh, this.... I’m... Ichinose Na... tsu... Um... Nice to... meet you...”

I try my best to act like Ichinose-san. Snickers and laughter resound throughout the room. They are coming from my previous colleagues. I was prepared for it, and I guess it was unavoidable. Nijou isn’t laughing, but the others are clearly holding me in contempt.

As I thought, what a group of trashes.

At this moment, Shibata-kun reacts in an unexpected manner.

“Oi, who the f\*ck laughed just now? What’s so damn funny, ah?”

When I sit down, he hits the table really hard and glares at the people that laughed. The momentum behind his words sucks the breaths out of my former colleagues’ mouth.

“... Indeed, we shouldn’t have behaved like this towards someone who we would work together with in the future. I’m sorry.”

Fujita-san, who is on the stage, expresses his apology and lowers his head.

He shouldn’t be the one apologizing, but I guess this is what comes with being a part of an organization.

“You guys should apologize properly as well.”

Chief Shimizu turns towards my former colleagues.

They stand up to apologize. It’s glaringly clear that they aren’t sincere with their apologies. I’m not exactly in the position to be saying this, but were these people really working members of the society?

Oh, I should say thanks to Shibata-kun.

“Um... thank you, very much...”

“... Don’t misunderstand. If they look down upon you, they might end up looking down upon me and Nishino-san. I didn’t speak up for you.”

“Still...”

“Alright, alright. I get it, so stop looking back, idiot.”

He looks away. I’m sad.

Mayor Uesugi claps his hands.

“Now that we’re all acquainted, let’s dive into the main subject of today’s discussion.”

In contrast to his previous cheerfulness, Mayor Uesugi’s eyes now contain a certain element of sharpness.

“As I have announced yesterday, I was able to level up my skill through everyone’s hard work. Let me thank you all for that again.”

He then looks around at us.

“Also, I was presented yesterday with new conditions to level up the skill. I would like to share the information about the conditions to everyone present.”

Mayor Uesugi then proceeds to inform us about what he told Fujita-san yesterday.

Securing personnel. Obtaining magic stones. And the subjugation of two designated monsters.

Initially, everyone keep their calm, but their expressions distort when they hear the last condition.

"You're kidding, right...."

"What does that even mean..."

"Monsters have names?"

"Subjugation of designated monsters?"

"Golem as in the monster that demolished our company?"

"You're telling us to fight that?"

"No, even before that, what about the magic stones and the personnel? Can we even achieve those conditions?"

"But a lot of people recently gathered here. We might somehow make do..."

"What's the point of having a lot of people? In the end, we're the ones that must fight the monsters."

While everyone else is panicking, Rikka-chan looks at me.

(Onii-san, you knew about this?)

(Yes.)

I wanted to tell her beforehand, but I wasn't able to find the right time to do so.

(I've already told Ichinose-san about this through a mail.)

(What did Natsun say?)

(She said, "What is this shitty game?")

(A truly Natsun-like reply.)

Rikka-chan grins subtly.

Well, I agree with what Ichinose-san said. The conditions are too strict.

"Be quiet."

By clapping his hands, Mayor Uesugi silences everyone.

"I understand what everyone is thinking. The conditions are too extreme compared to the past. There are many things I want to say, but first, please listen to our story until the end."

When Mayor Uesugi turns to face Fujita-san, the latter nods.

"Ah, from here on out, I'll be the one speaking since I'm the one in charge of the commands on the battlefield."

He then writes the conditions of the level up on a white board behind him.

"For the time being, in regards to the first two conditions about the magic stones and the number of residents, our plans will be the same as before.

Hopefully, the availability of electricity would increase the number of people heading here. Just this morning, 8 more people joined us, increasing our number to 84. When it comes to the number of residents, we might be able to achieve our goal by the end of today."

Assuming no sacrifices are made, he adds.

"As for the two designated monsters. Between the two, we might have a chance of winning against the ant."

I heard them speaking about it yesterday... but what exactly is the monster like?

Fujita-san takes something out of a plastic bag and places it on the stage.

"You've probably seen this before. It's a smoke-type pesticide."

In other words, it's a Ballo○n. (TN: I swear it says balloon)

"We tried out some new pesticides yesterday and found that this type of pesticide is also somewhat effective against the ants."

Ohhh. Sounds of surprise could be heard within the meeting room.

"It's less effective than the Magnum Blaster which can be used directly on the monsters, but this one is much more useful when applied in a large area. We'll be throwing these into the ant hills."

"And wipe them out?"

A member of Fujita-san's group raises his voice.

"No. We can't expect it to go so easily. However, these should weaken the ants quite a bit. After doing so at the entrance, we will enter with our Magnum Blasters and gradually capture the nest."

"If so, isn't it better to use gasoline? Monsters are still creatures. Smoke and heat should be effective as well..."

"That would work, but it's dangerous to use that tactic since we do not know how deep their nests go. Gas can accumulate if we aren't careful. In that respect, these pesticides will not hinder us too much... We can use fire as our last resort."

"I see. Understood."

"So I want you guys to collect as much of these two types of pesticides as you can. After all, we would be facing many monsters. I hope you guys can prioritize these two products in today's exploration. That would run in parallel with our mission to subjugate the nest... Is this clear to everyone?" The ones that previously caused a commotion are now listening intently to Fujita-san's words. Although the conditions first sounded unreasonable, Fujita-san's strategy is both solid and realistic. I suppose a seed of hope has been planted within their hearts.

"is the golem..."

Everybody waits for Fujita-san to speak. Stopping for a moment, he continues.

"To be honest, as of now, it's impossible."

"What!?"

"According to what you guys have claimed, what we have to confront is a monster that is no different from a walking skyscraper. Even if we gang up on it, we have no chance of winning."

A commotion rises in the room yet again. Looks of despair can be seen everywhere.

"Fu-Fujita-san, you're not joking with us?"

"I'm not. Unless we have powerful bombs or weapons, that is."

“Th-then what are we supposed to do! My family is here! That’s why I fought with my life on the line! We finally managed to arrive at this point... finally managed...”

“That’s right. Even if we fight, we can’t win. That’s why we would have to rely on those that can beat the monster.”

“Eh?”

Fujita-san lights a cigarette and breathes out a few times.

“I’ll say this now, but this is a gamble. We don’t know what happened to them, and even if we arrive at the location, I’m not sure whether they’ll help us or not. Even so, this is the only way we can survive.”

Fujita-san makes a proposal while looking at everyone inside the room.

“Let’s request for assistance from the Ground Self-Defense Force garrisoned in the neighboring town,”

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Chapter 116

Source: Cipher

Report

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He’s right!

Such thoughts come to my mind as I listen to Fujita-san’s strategy. If there is an enemy that you yourself cannot beat, you could ask others for help. In this case, we’re talking about the most well-armed troops in Japan.

It’s such an obvious solution, so much so that I have not thought about it.

(No, that’s not right.)19683 If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading 19683 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content19683 !

Somewhere deep inside my head, I have erased such an option. I erased it four days ago when I witnessed the members of the Self Defense Force being obliterated by the high orc without being able to do anything.

(But then again, they barely had any equipment on them...)

They were all carrying different weapons with them, so they might have been in a situation where they couldn’t gain access to their typical equipments.

(Well, they did manage to leave a scratch on the high orc...)

Even though it was a scratch, it was an injury nevertheless. At that time, if they were fully equipped or riding a helicopter equipped with missiles and heavy machine guns, the result might have been different.

Firearms, missiles, tanks, and military helicopters.

They demonstrate the power of science in our world and are different from skills and occupations. They are quite desirable.

If we bombard the gigantic golem with heavy firepower without closing our distance, we indeed have a chance of winning.

Don’t underestimate Earth, fantasy creature!

(However, this is all under the assumption that the SDF is functioning normally.)

It is already the sixth day. There is a good chance that the Self Defense Force got annihilated.

In this area alone, powerful monsters such as the high orc, the dark wolf, and the gigantic golem have appeared. I doubt this is happening only to us. Much stronger monsters might have appeared in other areas. This must be why Fujita-san calls it a "gamble".

Someone raises his hand while the surrounding is buzzing.

"Having the SDF come might work... but will it go so smoothly?"

"Wha...!?"

"I said it before, but this is a gamble. They might be busy dealing with their own monsters. They might have been annihilated already. If that is the case, then everything would have been for nothing."

"Then..."

"What other way can you think of? How else can we defeat the golem?"

"That's... oh, right. If we level up after defeating the ants..."

"Will we be more powerful than missiles? Even if that is possible, we don't have the time. We have three more days... 58 hours to be exact. That's two and a half days. It took us five days to reach our current levels. Do you think we can power up that much in two days?"

Fujita-san proclaims so while curling his hand into a fist. It appears that he is the most frustrated about his powerlessness among everyone present.

The man who argued against him closes his mouth in regret.

"It would take about an hour to drive to the SDF's garrison using a car. In this situation, cars cannot be used, and we might attract the attention of monsters if we use a motorcycle. So we must march there. It's better to assume that it'll take us a full day to arrive there."

That means two days for the round trip. No, if the SDF is functioning properly and the military helicopters are operational, it would only take one day.

Of course, this is on the premise that the other side is willing to respond to our pleas.

"The problem is... who will go?"

Indeed, that is the problem.

Since no means of communication is available, someone must go directly and report our predicament.

"Since I suggested this plan, I'll bear responsibility. It's just...it would help if one, no, two more people can join this operation."

Fujita-san is planning on heading there himself.

"What! No!"

A man stands up in protest. Just like Fujita-san, he is a core member who previously worked in this City Hall.

"You and Mayor Uesugi are the pillars of the City Hall! If something befalls you, what should we do!"

"When that happens, you will have to take my place. To begin with, anything can happen anytime in this work. In addition, if the SDF is still there, won't we need a negotiator? Don't you think it would be best for me to act as the negotiator?"

"Bu-but... in that case!"

He looks towards our direction.

"C-can't you have them go? Despite being newcomers, I heard that their levels are quite high. I believe that they can handle this mission."

"Really, you... You know that they came here just yesterday, yes? It would be absurd for us to have them complete this kind of dangerous task. Isn't it situations like this where adults must step up?"

Fujita-san sighs before glaring at the man. An adult's responsibility. You say some inspiring things, Fujita-san. Unfortunately... the other members do not seem to agree with him.

"We have tasks that we have to complete..."

"Won't they drag us down if we cooperate with them carelessly?"

"Young ones should be doing this kind of things..."

"Exactly. If they want to join us, they should demonstrate it with their actions."

"Yeah."

Fujita-san panics after listening to their words.

"Are you guys for real? When I revealed this plan, I wasn't planning on--"

"I agree with what they're saying as well."

Chief Shimizu, who is standing behind him, speaks up.

"Requesting aid from the SDF. I agree with that idea. However, if we consider the troubles of reorganizing the rotation for the exploration and the subjugation groups, it would be more efficient to send the people that recently entered."

"And there isn't anything to lose if the newcomers fail the mission. It's not like the City Hall would lose any of its prior members... is it?"

Nishino-kun speaks as if to continue Chief Shimizu's argument.

"... That's not what I'm implying. Please don't misunderstand."

"But isn't that what you're saying? Also, can you guys not push forward with your discussions without listening to what we have to say?"

"You're right. Sorry about that. So... what do you think about Fujita-san's idea?"

Nishino-kun's and Chief Shimizu's eyes clash.

"I don't disagree with Fujita-san's plan. I think it's worth betting on acquiring the SDF's assistance."

"If so--"

"However, don't try to push the responsibility onto us. And the matter about the rotation of the subjugation and exploration groups is utter nonsense.

You just want an excuse to push forward with your argument, am I right?"

"How blunt of you."

"I can mind my manners, but this and that are different. There is a certain amount of risk associated with this plan. Even though we're new here, we're not disposable tools."

"I never said that you were. You are all important comrades."

"Your attitudes say otherwise."

"What did you say?"

"Despite being only students, don't you know about being respectful?"

"How rude!"

"This is why young people these days are so..."

"Can we trust these guys?"

"Be quiet! The adults are in the middle of an important discussion!"

In response to Nishino-kun's words, the others – particularly my former colleagues – rebut vehemently.

Fujita-san sighs and tries to appease both sides, but the argument that has already begun does not end easily.

The students should go.

No, we should draw lotteries.

Isn't there another way of doing this?

Everyone is spitting out their thoughts. While this is happening–

(Onii-san, what are you going to do?)

Rikka-chan asks me.

(About that...)

I think hard with my hand on my chin.

(The City Hall... as well as the SDF....)

The current situation of the City Hall. The golem. The army of ants. The skills that we have. I think while taking all these factors into consideration.

I think, think, and think before I come to a conclusion. What would allow us to reap the most benefit?

(This would be a gamble... but the odds aren't necessarily against us.)

If all goes well, it would have a huge impact in the future. I rapidly tap away at my status screen. Afterwards, I raise my hand.

"U-um... I know I'm asking something strange, but is there a motorcycle here that can be used?"

Everyone pauses at my words. What is this child saying, their eyes seem to say.

C'mon, it's not even that strange, is it? Ichinose-san would feel hurt.

Nishino-kun... is also stunned.

"Uh, Ichinose-san... right? It's not like we don't, but why?"

Fujita-san replies. I'm satisfied with his response. If there is one, it shouldn't be a problem.

"I have a skill called 'Silent Operation'. Um, it allows me to move quietly, and it works on vehicles as well."

Fujita-san's expression changes after hearing that.

"I-I can go... to the SDF base."



I'll make a big move here. After all, this is something I'd have to go through sooner or later.

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Chapter 117

Source: Cipher

Report

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Their discussion continues thereafter. While what I said initially attracted the attention of everyone in the room, it was in the end something that came out of the mouth of an unknown, introverted girl.

Originally, a girl like that would not have any authority to speak.

Nevertheless, they are unable to ignore the effect of the skill which I announced. Fujita-san and the Mayor request for further explanation regarding the skill's effect, so I reply while acting like a shy girl.

Despite that being the case, my former colleagues are doubtful about what I said.

"Haaa, if such a skill truly exists, show it to us."13729 If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading 13729 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content13729 !

That pisses me off, but it is a valid request. Since that is the case, I demonstrate the skill in front of their eyes.

Moving to the parking lot, I ride on one of the functioning bikes. No sound is heard when the engine starts, and the silence continues as I move about on the bike. Everyone seems surprised seeing this.

(You're not even going to question the fact that a high-school girl knows how to drive a bike...)

Well, it's understandable. They must be so shocked about the skill's effect that their brain isn't functioning properly. But even if they point it out, I could have just said that I have the "Riding" skill.

Skills are really convenient. When it comes to making excuses, that is.

"This... is indeed unexpected."

"Yes... truly."

Mayor Uesugi and Fujita-san have serious expressions on their faces.

They're thinking hard with their hands on their chins. I suspect that they are currently weighing our worth inside their heads.

After seeing my skill in action, my former colleagues turn silent and have bitter expressions.

...I shouldn't be the one to say this, but how childish.

After a while, a consensus is reached.

"Okay, me and her. The two of us will head to the base."

Fujita-san declares so while pointing at me.

A team consisting of a newcomer girl who is introverted and one of the top executives in the City Hall. Originally, such a group would have been unimaginable. Yet my skill is so valuable that it could make it a reality. As the skill allows for excellent covertness, it would save a lot of time. (I thought either Chief Shimizu or Nishino-kun would be selected...) Just like he claimed, Fujita-san appears to be willing to bear the responsibility for thinking up of such a plan. How morally upright. There were some core members that disagreed until the end, but they were persuaded under the joint effort of Mayor Uesugi and Fujita-san. (If all goes well, it'll take around two hours...)

While this is under the assumption that we will not encounter any monsters, it is enough. After all, what would have initially taken an entire day is now going to take less than a tenth of the time.

The reason why only one more person is tagging along is because the bike accommodates a maximum of two people, and I have to be directly touching the object for a skill to be effective.

We're not going on a car as it wouldn't be able to go through certain paths, so we might have to abandon it at a certain point in time.

"Um... please treat me well."

"Ah, yes. Please treat me well as well."

I awkwardly shake hands with Fujita-san. This is a bit different from what I expected, but it's okay.

"Then let's depart in an hour."

"...Aren't we leaving right now?"

"I have to leave instructions to Shimizu-chan and the others... and just in case something happens to me, I have to appoint the next person in charge."

Don't just-in-case with me. Sorry, but I'm not planning on dying on duty with an ossan like you.

(But it helps that there is some time until departure.)

I have to speak with Rikka-chan and Ichinose-san as well. To avoid suspicion, I type frantically on the Mail screen while having my hand in my pocket.

(Rather than a mail, this should work better.)

I use the "Chat" function which was unlocked when the "Mail" skill upgrade to LV 2. In a situation like this, the "Chat" function is faster. A DM-like screen that could typically be seen on Line or Twitter appears. I type my message.

Even without looking, I can type in what I want to say. I don't know whether it's due to Ichinose-san's influence, but my typing speed has went up. Of course, it's still nowhere near her level.

On the Chat screen, I include everything which happened during the meeting such as the fact that Fujita-san and I would be going to the Defense Force's base and the fact that I revealed some of my skills. I also tell her to

continue monitoring the situation while I am away. I include some instructions for her to follow.

A reply comes immediately afterwards.

"Understood. Then Momo-chan and I will continue monitoring the situation. But is this fine with you? I feel like Kudou-san is bearing too much burden on your shoulders..."

I can tell through the screen that Ichinose-san is worried... Well, it's not really surprising.

"It's fine. I won't act recklessly. I'll prioritize my safety and escape as soon as a dangerous situation arises. Well, it's slightly upsetting that I won't be seeing Momo and Ichinose-san. Also, I want to request something of Ichinose-san..."

I ask something of Ichinose-san. When I send her the details, she replies after a slight delay.

"...Are you serious?"

Such words are returned. It must have been a surprising proposal even to Ichinose-san.

"I'm serious. Considering the future, that is the best course of action."

I am planning on reaping the most benefit out of this expedition regardless of whether it succeeds or not. Of course, that is not to say that I do not hope for a success.

"...Okay. I'll try my best. However, don't place too much expectation on me, okay? After all, I have zero communication skills."

"Thank you for accepting. Then let's both try our best."

"Yes. Also, Kudou-san, please be careful. Momo-chan seems lonely, so you must return safely. I'm also waiting for you."

...

I stop typing for a second. If she says something like that, I'll have to survive regardless of what's thrown at me.

"Of course. See you soon."

I close the Chat screen.

"Now then..."

I re-energize myself before looking at Rikka-chan who is walking next to me.

"Done?"

She asks in a whisper which only I could hear. She must have been waiting for me to end my discussion with Ichinose-san.

I nod.

"I see."

She says so and reverts back to her normal volume.

"I was surprised when Natsun spoke up back then."

"Certainly. I didn't think you would possess such a skill."

"Sorry, Ricchan, Nishino-kun. You see... I thought it would be better to refrain from exposing my skill to others..."

"Well, I won't say that you're wrong."

Nishino-kun laughs bitterly. I heard from Rikka-chan before about his occupation and skill.

“Commander” and “Command”.

Unlike my Item Box, neither should be something that he’d need to hide ... Or is he hiding some dangerous skills?

“But as a result, all the burden is concentrated on you. On you who we have barely gotten acquainted with... I feel guilty about this.”

It sounds like he’s blaming me for... no, it’s more like he’s blaming himself for his worthlessness.

“Oh, no. You don’t have to mind.”

“Huh? Of course we mind. Aren’t you an important teammate of ours?”

“Eh, um...”

Shibata-kun enters our conversation. His tone is rough and sounds somewhat angry.

“I don’t know what you think, but you are already considered our teammate. Of course we have a problem with you sacrificing yourself for the rest of us.”

“But we just met yesterday...”

“Ang? So what? Whether it’s a minute or a year, the moment we think of you as one of our own, you are part of our team, get it? To begin with, it’s wrong to make friends while expecting something in return.”

Shibata-kun’s face approaches mine.

Scary. Scary.

“Oh, I’m not trying to say that but...”

“Hey! Shibacchi’s face is scary! Can’t you see that Natsun’s intimidated?”

“Haa? B-but I’m speaking normally?”

“I’m saying that your face scary as it is. A villain’s face.”

“Hey, that... seriously? I have a scary face?”

Shibata-kun looks around at us. Everyone nods. This includes even Goshogawara-san.

Shibata-kun becomes depressed. It must have been quite the shock. I laugh unintentionally at the scene.

“Well, anyway, I agree with Shibata. Nothing will change regardless of what I say, but I hope you listen to this. Don’t push yourself too much. Return with your life. For our... no, for Rikka’s sake.”

Having said that, he pats my shoulder.

“If you come across something, tell me through ‘Mail’. I might not be able lend my strength, but I can certainly try lending my wisdom.”

“U-understood. I’ll return safely, so please do your best here as well.”

I distance myself from Nishino-kun. After adequately distancing myself, I sigh.

(I’ve been thinking so for a while, but Nishino-kun and his friends are really thoughtful towards anyone they acknowledge...)

But then again, I think that applies to me as well.

A clear distinction between friends and others. Who to trust and who not to trust. Nishino-kun's group is strong precisely because they can draw the line properly.

It's a quality worth learning from them.

An hour later.

I am standing in the parking lot near the barricade.

(I'm ready. I've told Rikka-chan about what I want her to do as well.)

We can contact one another through Mail, so there shouldn't be a big issue.

A fully armed Fujita-san walks towards me from the entrance.

There are a few others with him. They're probably here to see us off.

"Sorry for the wait."

"Ah, no...it's fine."

He is carrying a backpack and has two handaxes hanging on his waist. I remember him saying that he fights with his axe.

Exiting the barricade, I turn on the bike's engine. We're planning on having Fujita-san behind me as I drive.

"Let's go."

"Yes."

In this manner, we leave the City Hall and aim for the Self Defense Force garrison in the neighboring prefecture.

Now, let's put my back into this mission.

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Chapter 118

Source: Cipher

Report

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The bike is running along the track. The engine's roar is so soft that we can hear the noises from the surrounding. It will take around an hour and a half to arrive at the Defense Force's base.

The map is engrained within my memory, and I have already reviewed the route which we are going to take countless times.

(Well, I doubt our plan will proceed without hiccups though...)

We will definitely encounter some form of trouble along the way. Those huge trees might block our paths, and monsters might ambush us. 12055 If you are/ seeing this text/ you are reading 12055 from a pirated source and we would appreciate if you visit us at nobles.jp to read our content12055 !

In fact, I should drive under the assumption that something might occur.

Better safe than sorry.

"Experience has reached a certain threshold."

"'Riding' has increased from LV2 to LV3."

Oh, it seems like my riding skill has leveled up. Since I gave priority to other skills while distributing points, the skill has been at LV1 for a long time, but the experience must have accumulated over time.

By constantly using a certain skill repeatedly, one could increase the skill's level even without using points on it. As the skill implies, the experience of the "Riding" skill should increase the more I ride vehicles.

With the skill, I can ride bikes I have never ridden before just like right now, and I assume that I will be able to ride other vehicles as the skill's level rises... which is one of my goals for this mission.

"Your driving skill is really impressive..."

Fujita-san, sounding impressed, says so while riding behind me. I didn't tell him about the "Riding" skill, so he seems to be honestly amazed about my techniques.

But it's understandable. After all, a beautiful girl who is yet to become an adult is performing better than professionals at riding a bike.

(As for the skill... I'll keep quiet about it for the time being.)

By the way, Fujita-san is currently holding onto the belt attached to the seat rather than my body. I guess he is trying to take me into consideration.

(But in the end, this is a trip involving an ossan and a male disguised as a girl...)

What a terrible picture. What a combination this is. If I don't look like Ichinose-san, it must have been a horrid scene to behold.

"Please turn right at the next intersection."

"O-okay."

Following his instruction, I turn right. So far so good.

There is no sign of monsters, and there aren't any trees blocking the road. Since this area is still close to the City Hall, I guess Fujita-san is choosing a relatively safe route to travel.

(The problem would be on the national highway...)

According to Fujita-san, everything beyond that point is outside of their exploration perimeter. In a sense, it could be considered a land of unknown for them. It's the same in my case.

"We're about to approach the national highway."

"Okay. Please drive with caution."

The "Subjugation Area" which the mayor mentioned should also end around here. The "Subjugation Area" where the designated monsters reside is within a 500 meter radius around the City Hall.

(So if we go beyond this point, we can at least avoid a battle with the golem.)

I would like to avoid battles and encounters with the golem right now.

Although I have recently acquired a weapon of mass destruction (tetrapods), I don't think that alone could defeat the golem.

I want something else. Something decisive.

(Fujita-san said that the Defense Force base annually conducts large-scale exercises around this time of the year.)

While it is not at the scale of a "Soukan" where tens of thousands of militants gather for military exercises, it is said that something similar is

held. As such, there is a high possibility of ammunitions, missiles, and tanks being present inside the base.

For a moment, I wonder where he got all the information before realizing that he works for the government. He must have worked with other prefectures and Self Defense Forces before.

(He talked about being acquainted with someone over there, so he must be thinking of relying on that person.)

As I am hoping for things to work out...

“!!”

I abruptly stop the bike. Even though I apply the brakes, we remain quiet thanks to the skill. However, Fujita-san, who is behind me, appears surprised.

“What happened?”

“...Please look over there.”

“That?....!!”

Fujita-san’s expression shifts when he witnesses the scene.

In front of us is a huge crater, one that is over 10 meters wide. In addition, the surrounding buildings have collapsed, the ground was raised in various locations, and huge boulders are present all around.

(A battle against monsters? No, but considering the scale...)

The destructiveness is above that of the high orc’s cry and the dark wolf’s darkness. In that case, I can only think of one such creature.

The golem. That gargantuan golem fought with someone here. That is the only reasonable explanation to this.

“Fujita-san, this...”

“I-it should be that golem’s work...”

Fujita-san seems to have arrived at the same conclusion.

“We can’t pass through here... It’ll be a bit of a detour, but let’s go around it.”

“Yes...”

Since we never know when the golem would appear again, we get ready to leave.

However-

“N?”

“What’s wrong, Ichinose-chan?”

“...This.”

I pick up something that is on the ground.

A magic stone. It’s quite big. It’s about the size of a fist.

“Is that a magic stone? That’s quite the big one.”

“Isn’t it.”

The purple magic stone is quite heavy and asserts its existence on my hand. Yet the very next moment, a crack appears on the stone.

“Eh?”

“Huh?”

I have not put much strength into it, but the stone cracks and breaks into several pieces in the blink of an eye.”

“Hey hey. How did you do that?”

“I-I have no idea. It suddenly cracked...”

I try to gather the pieces, but this time, they crumble into sand-like substances the moment I touch them. This is the first time something like this happened. To think that a magic stone would shatter...

I try to place the sand-like substance into the Item Box, but it doesn't work. Can I only store magic stones in their original form? But then...

“Ichinose-chan, let's think about this later. For now, we should leave this area.”

“Yes.”

He's right. Storing away the question in my head, we quickly distance ourselves from that region.

Around ten minutes later.

We are moving unhindered along the national highway without being ambushed by the golem which we were wary of.

(So what was that incident with the magic stone all about...?)

While I am driving, I think back to the magic stone and the crater. If that golem had to fight in such a fierce manner, it means that its opponent was quite powerful.

(But... that golem should have won the battle.)

Otherwise, the mayor would have been notified that one of the conditions has been met. I asked Fujita-san, and it appears that the mayor's conditions can be cleared by a third-party.

ly, there was something that the mayor had to accomplish, but Fujita-san cleared it without realizing it and fulfilled the condition.

How ambiguous.

But it's true that the condition only requests for “Subjugation” and does not specify which party has to be involved.

Whether it is deliberate or not, if the monster dies, it will be certified as having been subjugated.

Any method will do as long as the opponent is defeated. The process is irrelevant. Only the result matters. It's a simple yet cruel rule.

(I'm still oblivious to the penalties for failing.)

Nishino-kun and the others were also concerned about this and inquired Fujita-san and Chief Shimizu, but they were both hesitant to answer.

Actually, Chief Shimizu looks like she really doesn't know. It is Fujita-san who appears to be hiding something.

(If I can somehow learn about it through this expedition...Hm?)

“Hostility Detection” is picking up a response. My thoughts are brought back to reality, and I stop the bike from its track.

“What happened, Ichinose-chan?”

I observe the surrounding after silencing Fujita-san with my eyes.

...They're here.



Monsters. Lots of them.

(Since I don't see any of them, they should be hiding.)

I narrow down the area of the search using "Enemy Detection". We are currently at the center of the road. There are countless destroyed buildings and boulders where monsters can hide.

But what is this? I'm getting a sense of uneasiness. My movement feels oddly dull.

(Aka, I'll be relying on you.)

(...) Furu furu.

I look around while holding Aka which is disguised as a gun. In this state, Aka can properly function as a gun. The bullets were pre-made by Ichinose-san using "Ammunition Creation".

There are thirty bullets in total, so I cannot shoot randomly.

"They're coming!"

"Understood."

Fujita-san also gets off the bike and readies his handaxes. If I'm not wrong, his occupation should be an "Axe User". I want to see him in action, but I cannot relax my guards either.

"Kishaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

What emerges from behind a boulder is a huge spider. Imagine a tarantula the size of a lion.

(Ugeee! Disgusting! What is that?)

I am spiritually appalled by the appearance of the creature, just like how one would feel looking at cockroaches. I immediately aim and shoot with the gun.

"Gichuu~!"

The huge spider dies as the bullet penetrates between its brows. A yellow magic stone rolls down.

"You have gained experience."

Good. "Enemy Detection" is telling me that there are 3 left.

"Fujita-san! These spiders' exteriors aren't as hard as they seem to be. One of them are aiming at you!"

"Leave it to me!"

Behind me, a huge spider that has been hiding approached Fujita-san.

"NUORIYAAAAAAAAAAAA!"

Fujita-san charges fiercely with his ax and brings it down upon his opponent's head.

"Gichii!"

However, the huge spider dodges just before the attack hits. It tries to counterattack, but Fujita-san's attack is not over yet. The axe which has been swung scoops up some parts of the ground which it is embedded on and scatters the fragments like a shotgun.

(How powerful... So this is the skill "Pulverizing Attack".)

"Pulverizing Attack" is a skill that comes with Fujita-san's occupation, "Axe User". As the name implies, it's a skill that pulverizes the enemy.

“Gichiii!”

The huge spider jumps backwards, but that is exactly what Fujita-san was aiming for.

“ORYAAA!”

Fujita-san throws the other handaxe which was hanging on his waist. The axe accurately hits the belly of the huge spider. Yellow body fluid drips out of the spider’s wound.

“Kyiiiiiiiiiii!”

The spider lets out a scream while ratching its fangs. Uwa, how repulsive. It’s still cute if a big mouse does it, but it’s scary when a big insect does it. It’s like my spirit is being scraped off.

“This is the end!”

Fujita-san once again charges and smashes the spider’s brain. Yellow liquid splatters out before a magic stone eventually drops to the ground.

Two more.

“Enemy Detection” is reacting, but it’s strangely dull. Where are they...?

“Ichinose-chan, are you fine?”

Fujita-san comes near me. Near his feet, a manhole moves ever so slightly.

“Fujita-san! Move away from that place immediately!”

“Eh?”

In that moment, a spider which is one size smaller than the ones before appears from the manhole.

(So the response was dull because they were hiding underground.)

The spider opens its mouth wide and spews white thread toward Fujita-san.

“Gwa, what is this?!”

Fujita-san tries to shake it off, but the thread is sticky and difficult to remove.

“Fujita-san!”

I hoist my gun up, but my pose crumbles right then.

“!?”

What? I can’t move properly.

“Crisis Detection” rings loudly. I look closely at myself. There are threads.

The threads are so thin that I wouldn’t have perceived it if not for

“Enhanced Senses”. The thread is entwined throughout my body.

(So this is the source of my uneasiness!)

Damn, I was careless. This is the reason behind my sluggish movements.

Individually, these threads are nothing to write home about. It’s to the point where “Crisis Detection” doesn’t react.

However, over time, these threads would display their true might. If these threads become a bundle, they will gradually slow down our movements.

This place is literally their web.

“Kii!”

The giant spider tries to attack Fujita-san who is immobile. I try to ready Aka, but my movements are restricted.

(Shit, I can’t hold back right now.)

I have to use the Item Box. Just then, the bodies of Fujita-san and I shine brightly.

“What?”

When the lights disappear, power suddenly surges throughout my body.

Ripping apart the threads one by one, I ready my gun (Aka).

“Eat this!”

Pa~an! A gunshot is heard. What a close call. The spider that was trying to eat Fujita-san dies.

One remaining. Where is it? Where?

Despite waiting, the last one does not appear.

“That must have been the last one.”

Fujita-san walks towards me after disposing the threads.

“No, please do not be negligent. There’s still something near us.”

“Enemy Detection” has not been disabled. It should be hiding somewhere.

As I keep watch without dropping my guard, I hear something.

“Kyu...Kyu! Kyu!”

It’s a little fox. More precisely, it’s a creature that looks like a fox.

(An animal...? No, it’s most likely a type of monster.)

It’s about the size of a cat, but its tail take up half of its body length. Its tail is round like the fluff of a dandelion, and its coat shines gold under the sunlight.

What is most noticeable is the red gem embedded on its forehead. It’s not something we see on regular animals. Although it has a cute appearance, there’s little doubt that it’s a monster.

“Kyu...”

The fox continues to gaze towards us.

(It was caught by the spiders...)

Just like us, it must have been caught by the spiders. We most likely arrived before it got eaten.

A voice suddenly echoes inside my head.

“Lesser Carbuncle looks at you as if you were a friend. Do you wish to befriend it?”

Eh?

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